

EMPIRE TABLE TENNIS CLUB

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Newsletter

November 2005

FROM THE CHAIR

Two weeks ago I traveled to Christchurch with my wife Lynette to watch the New Zealand Nationals being played and to support our players. As usual there were several Empire players taking part including Depak Patel, Ian & Chris Talbot, James Harter, Yotam & Noam Barshalom, Thom Nguyen and my daughter Hanna Squire. The standard of play was very good and we were treated to a special test match - NZ v Aussie women. The Aussie women proved to be just a little bit better overall with the result being 4:3 in favour of the Aussies. Julian Wooten (another Empire member) was the Wellington/Hutt head coach and from what I saw, he ran a very well disciplined operation. Steve McCarthy was overall manager of the Wellington/Hutt contingent and he too did an excellent job with help from Tali Barshalom, Alex Levinson and others.

In passing I would like to make a special mention about Thom Nguyen. Thom, who was probably one of the youngest contestants at the Nationals, behaved really well throughout what was a long and grueling program and he proved to be a fine ambassador for our Club.

While in Christchurch I had another opportunity to check out the Christchurch Stadium which is a converted warehouse fitted out for table tennis. It reminded me that when I got back home I had to spend time bringing everyone one up to speed with where we are in terms of our own re-development plans – there has been quite a lot going on and it hasn't all been plain sailing either!

Building costs have sky rocketed and we have had to look at alternatives including a possible relocation to Hutt Park. You may have heard that HCC is still very keen to develop Hutt Park into a new regional multi sports complex and has pushed ahead with a feasibility assessment. Not only that but as part of their plans HCC prepared a Memorandum of Understanding which, on a no-commitment basis, Empire signed as one of five foundation parties along with the Pelorus Trust (who agreed to provide funding of approximately \$4,000,000.00 to fund a shared amenities/admin block) and several other interested parties. Unfortunately, we have just learnt that the estimated cost of building a table tennis stadium at Hutt Park is in excess of \$3,000,000.00 so unless we can find a benefactor/sponsor or scale down our requirements, we may have to stay where we are and spend the funds that we have raised on improving our present facilities - but not on the same grand scale that we planned originally. I will let everyone know where we are and what we decide just as soon as I can so **watch this space!**

Russell Buchanan

SERVICES

Raffles

We are pleased to announce that the winner of the All Black shirts donated by Jackie Upchurch was Audrey St Clair from midweek club. Congratulations Audrey! We very much appreciate all the support you have given our raffles and your efforts to promote sales so are very pleased that you get a reward for your efforts. Hope you can put the two shirts to good use. We are also pleased to announce that tickets in the gourmet basket raffle have all been sold (bottle of Martinborough Vineyard Pinot Noir donated by Arthur Lee and cheese, crackers and chocolate donated by Maggie Dyer). The winning ticket was bought by Pauline Muir from Maggie's work. Congratulations Pauline! The current raffle of some goodies from Metro Ford in Porirua is now available at Club and your support with buying tickets is much appreciated. All profits go into a fundraising account to buy kitchen equipment (or similar) for the new stadium.

Tournament Results

Many of you have played in tournaments around the country this year and although I have visited various websites some results are missing. In order to get a complete list of results could anyone who has played in any tournaments in 2005 please contact me with their results. This would be useful to verify the results I have as well. I can be contacted by phone 5899 140 (home), 5704 820 (work), by email maggie.dyer@paradise.net.nz or see me at club.

Tournaments

Empire hosted 4 schools tournaments in August and September. Thanks to Jackie Upchurch, Don Phillips, Margaret Cloughley, Brian Mattson, Dick Hince and Ron Menchi who helped staff the shop and make toasted sandwiches this year. The sales from these tournaments provide valuable revenue for the club as well as providing a service so your help is much appreciated.

To all those trophy winners from last year - please return all trophies to the club ASAP.

There is a brightly coloured SUGGESTION BOX on the centre table at club - members contributions welcome

Have you checked out the new zip water heater in the kitchen!

Maggie Dyer

ACTIVITIES

Monday Club: Please note the closing night for 2005 will be Monday 19 December. The Monday club will re-open on Monday 16 January 2006.

Midweek Club: Midweek has been kept busy with new players and at around 70 attending these past few months. A visit from the Kapiti Club was on Monday 25th July when 12 of their players came down. Empire on the day was too strong for them winning 26 matches to their 4 in a Doubles tournament, however there were quite a few matches going to 5 sets, and a most enjoyable day of table tennis was had with a lovely lunch to follow.

On Thursday 18th August the annual midweek doubles tournament was again hosted by Empire. Entries came from Wairarapa, Waikanae, Kapiti, Levin, Wainuiomata and Tawa with a total of 110 players on the day. A grocery raffle and a money raffle were held to help offset costs, but we still managed to clear \$515.30 for the Club, which was excellent. Everyone had a great day and the prizes were spread around most of the clubs.

Winners on the day were as follows:

Table 1.	Winners:	Wayne Daly/Jim Jarmin (Levin)
	Runners Up:	Eddie Moore/John Nguyen (Empire)
Table 2.	Winners:	Hong Chan/Sue Law (Empire)
	Runners Up:	Heather Paul/Peter Jones (Kapiti)
Table 3.	Winners:	Lois McStay/Don Phillips (Empire)
	Runners Up:	Kevin Tse/Henry Chin (Empire)
Table 4.	Winners:	John Joe/J Liang Tan (Empire)
	Runners Up:	Awhina MacDonald/Percy Te Rangi (Levin)
Table 5.	Winners:	Jill Yap/Margaret Holdsworth (Levin)
	Runners Up:	Eve DeBruin/Jeff Halls (Waikanae)
Table 6.	Winners:	John Plummer/George Masson (Kapiti/Levin)
	Runners Up:	Tina Ng/Bob McHattie (Empire)
Table 7.	Winners:	Judith Walker/Jenny Turner (Tawa)
	Runners Up:	April Sullivan/Colleen De Vere (Kapiti)
Table 8.	Winners:	Anna Chu/Anna Chung (Empire)
	Runners Up:	Kim Yee/Nancy Chan (Empire)
Table 9.	Winners:	Karen Tse/Sue Wong (Empire)
	Runners Up:	Jerry Holdsworth/Stan Robinson (Levin)

Junior Club: Friday club champs are underway. The last night for the year will be 2 December. We hope to have a good attendance of parents/grandparents/supporters on this night. Please all bring a plate of finger food for supper. Presentation of certificates to winners of club champs events and attendance certificates will be presented.

Butterfly: The club 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.

TABLE TENNIS WELLINGTON NEWS

WINTER INTERCLUB RESULTS:

Premier One

3rd in grade: Empire Thunder (Depak Patel, Chris Talbot, Ian Talbot)

6th in grade: Empire Storm (James Harter, Tony Rutledge, Hanna Squire, Julian Wootton)

Premier Two

Winners of grade: Empire Hurricanes (Bruce Connolly, Uy Tang, Chris Williams)

6th in grade: Empire Tornadoes (Yotam Bar-Shalom, Norman Chan, Jason Giles, Chris Nightingale)

Premier Three

2nd in grade: Empire Lightning: (Russell Buchanan, Buck Chan, Wai Chung, Graham Sole)

6th in grade: Empire Cyclones (Diane Allardyce, Noam Bar-Shalom, Tom Nguyen, Robert Tiu)

B Grade

Winners of grade: Empire Tempest (Margaret Cloughley, Margaret Connolly, Maggie Dyer)

4th in grade: Empire Whirlwind (M Basa, Alex Gu, Gray Liu, Narayan Mani)

COMPOSITE TEAMS TOURNAMENT.

To commence Wed 9 Nov for 5 weeks, concluding on 7 Dec. Start time is 7pm. Teams will be graded and matches will be played at both Empire and Newtown Stadiums. Fees will be the same as winter interclub.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

CONGRATULATIONS to **Merv Allardyce** on his recent Lower Hutt Civic Award for Services to Recreation and Youth. The award was in recognition of over 30 years service to Table Tennis, involvement in the administration of the club, coaching at all levels and ensuring the general smooth operation of club sessions.

NATIONAL NEWS

NZ INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS TEAMS CHAMPS

The Hutt Intermediate School team, which included M Basa and Alex Majovic, won this tournament held in Christchurch in September.

Results of NZ National Champs played in Christchurch 30 September – 8 October 2005

Open Women's Doubles	Bronze	Hanna Squire and Michelle McCarthy
B Grade Men's Singles Plate	Gold	Depak Patel
C Grade Men's Doubles	Silver	Depak Patel and Callum Rushbridge
Over 45's Doubles	Silver	Depak Patel and Lindsey Ward
Over 35's Doubles	Bronze	Depak Patel and Lindsey Ward
U21 Doubles	Bronze	Hanna Squire and Michelle McCarthy
U21 Mixed Doubles	Silver	Hanna Squire and B Patterson
U19 Doubles	Gold	Hanna Squire and Michelle McCarthy
U19 Mixed Doubles	Silver	Hanna Squire and B Patterson
U17 Girls Singles	Silver	Hanna Squire
U17 Doubles	Silver	Hanna Squire and S Shu
U17 Mixed Doubles	Bronze	Hanna and B Patterson

NZ Juniors success at Oceania Junior Championships

The New Zealand Girls team (comprising Jenny Hung, Sophie Shu, Michelle McCarthy and Hanna Squire) beat tournament favourites Australia 3-0 in the final to win the Oceania Junior Table Tennis Championships in Suva, Fiji in June. The New Zealand girls progress as the Oceania representatives to the World Junior Championships to be held in Austria in December.

Our own **Hanna Squire** and Michelle McCarthy from Belmont Club have been selected to the 2006 Commonwealth Games squad.

FINANCE

Pub Charity had made a grant of \$50,000 in March 2005, and Southern Trust had made a grant of \$20,000 in June 2005, both towards the Club's new building project. In June 2005, the Club received a grant of \$20,000.00 from the Southern Trust. The grant is earmarked for the flooring of the (new) stadium. Approval of this grant reflects the dedicated efforts of the Board Members and those who have been involved in its application.

A reminder to any members who have moved, please advise any change of address or telephone number to the club.

Arthur Lee

Board Matters

Belinda Harter, because of work commitments, has decided to step aside from the Promotions Convenor role and as a result we have a vacancy on the Board. If you are interested in filling this position, please speak to Russell or one of the board members.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday 9 November	TTW Composite Teams Competition commences
Saturday 26 November	Club Champs
Friday 2 December	Final night for Junior Club
Wednesday 7 December	Final night for TTW Composite Teams Tournament
Tuesday 13 December	Midweek "official" closing date
Monday 19 December	Closing night for Monday Club and Presentation of Trophies
Monday 16 January 2006	Monday club opens for 2006
Tuesday 7th February 2006	Midweek "official" re-opening date

Have you checked out our website lately? We are averaging 119 hits each month.

www.empirett.org.nz

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES