

# EMPIRE TABLE TENNIS CLUB

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**Newsletter**

**September 2004**

Greetings all. Welcome to my second newsletter. There are some great things happening at our Club so read on to find out about them. Have you checked out our website? There is lots of info about the club, its history and activities. [www.empirett.org.nz](http://www.empirett.org.nz) You may have seen the recent article and photos in your local newspaper following the annual midweek tournament. It is great to see table tennis getting a profile in the media. Unfortunately you can't always believe what you read. Margaret Allardyce was the founding member of the midweek club thirty years ago, Lois McStay is the current organiser extraordinaire. In the last newsletter I printed a history of the midweek club, the source of this information was Margaret Allardyce's article in the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Booklet. My apologies for this omission. If you would like to receive future newsletters via email please send your email address to [di.s.patch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:di.s.patch@xtra.co.nz) Contributions to the next newsletter due out in November are most welcome. Please let me know. Diane

## FROM THE CHAIR

On Tuesday 7 September 2004 the Wellington Table Tennis Association's Interclub final was held at Empire. Despite the cold night the atmosphere in the stadium was great and I enjoyed the friendly rivalry that existed between the clubs. People came from all over Wellington and the Hutt Valley to watch and the quality of play was exciting. It was good to see Empire at the heart of table tennis in the area. It will be fantastic when these events can be held in our new stadium! Meantime we continue to produce top players and will be well represented at the New Zealand Nations being held in Auckland later this month. Good luck to everyone taking part.  
Russell Buchanan

## ACTIVITIES

**Monday Club:** There is still a steady influx of new faces coming down. It is good to see members of other clubs utilising our wonderful facilities. We have recently signed up two new members following inquiries from our website.

**Club Champs:** A successful club champs was held on Sunday 8 August. Results are listed below. Presentation night will be Monday 1 November to reward the efforts of the players with trophies and certificates. Four special trophies will also be awarded. They are:

J R Capstick Cup	Most Improved Player
R E Mitchell Cup	Best Sportsperson
Empire TT Cup	Most outstanding individual performance
The Dick Gray Cup	for the member who: is a regular club attender, has reasonable match play success, is a good sportsperson and assists in the running of the club.

**Midweek Club:** Twelve players had a successful visit to Paraparaumu club on 24 August and a trip is planned to Levin on 4 October. On 3 September the annual tournament was held with entries coming from as far afield as Levin and Masterton. There were 43 doubles pairs entered including a gentleman who was 91 years and five months old! The Empire teams did extremely well as you will see in the following results.

Group 1 winners: John Nguyen & Eddie Moore; runners up: Graham Sole & Norman Chan

Group 2 winners: Howard Chung & Ping Chui; runners up: Hong Chan & Sue Law

Group 3 winners: Buck Chan & Henry Chin; runners up: Ken Hindson & Des Orange (Wairarapa)

Group 4 winners: John Joe & Bill Wong; runners up: Shirley Young & Chang Young

Group 5 winners: Audrey St Clair & Arthur Lee; runners up: Gordon Eagle & Ron Birt (Levin)

Group 6 winners: John Wallace & Annette Rowland (Wairarapa); runners up: Maureen Brown & June Lewin (Paraparaumu)

Group 7 winners: Colin & Shirley Chandler (Waikanae); runners up: Belinda Harter & Karen Tse

Grateful thanks to those who spent their day in the kitchen making cups of tea and setting out the luncheon: Sommee Gee, Nam & Susan Tai, Peter Phillipsen, Fay Ngan, Shirley Cho and Ying Young. Raffles were run and a profit was made for the day.

**Junior Club:** Because of the large numbers attending it is not possible to run the Friday night club champs on Friday nights. This year they will be run during the school holidays on **WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER**  
The grades will comprise:

A grade	groups 1, 2, 3
B grade	groups 4, 5, 6
C grade	groups 7, 8, 9
D grade	groups 10, 11, 12

B & D grade champs will start at 9.00am and A & C grade champs at 12.30pm. The shop will operate but no lunch will be available so bring your own. There could be a chance for some D graders to play in the C grade champs and some B graders to play in the A grade champs. Players will need to know their current group and these will be at Club next Friday 24 September. Players can also contact either Ron Menchi 9704581 or Merv Allardyce 9736682 after Friday night. A reminder that the club is open from 6.30pm and organised play starts at 7.30pm. Please ensure that arrangements are made for the juniors to be picked up by 9.30pm.

**Interclub:** Winter Interclub has finished for the season. We had an outstanding result in Premier Two with one of our teams winning section one. Results and individual statistics follow thanks to Brian Pearson from TTW.

**Premier 1:**

4<sup>th</sup> Depak Patel (47%), Chris Talbot (52%), Ian Talbot (47%), Tony Rutledge (48%)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Hanna Squire (73%), Julian Wootton (93%), James Harter (13%), Martin Leon (4%)

**Premier 2:**

1<sup>st</sup> in section one Bruce Connolly (100%), Uy Tang (56%), Chris Williams (83%)  
 4<sup>th</sup> in section two Darren O'Brien (67%), Jared Cunningham (20%), Junou Huang (67%)

**Premier 3:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Graham Sole (47%), Ignacio Leon (46%), Russell Buchanan (52%), Chris Nightingale (61%)

**B Grade:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Leo Barnett (80%), Norman Chan (72%), Basil Kananghinis (67%)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Margaret Cloughley (62%), Margaret Connolly (64%), Maggie Dyer (38%)  
 4<sup>th</sup> George John (45%), Narayan Mani (11%), Robert Tiu (43%), Peter Vrecic (93%)

**C Grade: Tuesday Competition**

Jamie Bridewell (57%), Daniel Chrisp (62%)  
 Glen Parker (25%), Jason Parker (17%)

**C Grade: Wednesday Competition**

2<sup>nd</sup> equal: Jarrod Croxson (75%), Mateus Czudat (80%)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> equal: Shushruth Joshi (13%), Jesse Ryder (56%)  
 Harris Stephen played in a composite team which was 4<sup>th</sup> in this grade.

**Don't our teams look smart with their flash new shirts!**

There will be a composite teams tournament run by Table Tennis Wellington on Wednesday evenings from 3 November until 1 December. If you would like to play in this competition please put your name and phone number on the list at club, leave a message on 9712028 or email [jtallardyce@paradise.net.nz](mailto:jtallardyce@paradise.net.nz) before 20 October 2004.

**Tournament Results:**

**Empire Club Champs Sunday 8 August**

	<b>Winner(s)</b>	<b>Runner(s) up</b>
<b>Open men's singles</b>	Depak Patel	Ian Talbot
Consolation	Malcolm Wong	Leo Barnett
Open men's doubles	Chris Talbot & Ian Talbot	Martin Leon & Tony Rutledge
Open women's singles	Margaret Cloughley	Diane Allardyce
Consolation	Joy Mozer	Frankie Schmid
Open women's doubles	Margaret Cloughley & Maggie Dyer	Diane Allardyce & Frankie Schmid
Open mixed doubles	Diane Allardyce & Depak Patel	Russell Buchanan & Maggie Dyer
Handicap singles	Ian Talbot	Ron Menchi
Handicap doubles	Diane Allardyce & Merv Allardyce	Tony Rutledge & Malcolm Wong

**Junior Development Open: 29 August 2004 Petone**

Under 12 boys doubles runners up: Xuan Liu & T Nguyen (Moonshine)  
 Under 12 plate winner: Jack Nicholas runner up: Harry Josephson  
 Under 14 boys singles Ignacio Leon  
 Under 14 boys doubles Ignacio Leon & Marty Murdoch (Belmont)  
 Under 14 plate winner: Narayan Mani runner up: Jarrod Croxson  
 Under 16 plate Ignacio Leon

**Wellington Spring Open: 11-12 September Petone**

Open women's singles winner: Hanna Squire  
 Under 21 singles runner up: Hanna Squire  
 Under 21 doubles runners up: Hanna Squire & Michelle McCarthy (Belmont)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Division singles winner: Eddie Moore  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Division doubles runners up: Eddie Moore & Leo Barnett  
 Over 40 singles winner: Depak Patel; runner up: Chris Talbot  
 Over 40 plate winner: Russell Buchanan  
 Over 40 doubles winners: Depak Patel & Chris Talbot; runners up: Tony Rutledge & Jim Pandelidis  
 Over 50 singles runner up: Tony Rutledge  
 Over 50 plate winner: Graham Sole

Over 50 doubles runners up: Tony Rutledge & Jim Pandelidis  
 Over 60 plate runner up: Graham Sole  
 Over 60 doubles runners up: Eddie Moore & Leo Barnett  
 Under 13 boys singles runner up: Xuan Xiu  
 Under 13 boys doubles winners: Ignacio Leon & Marty Murdoch (Belmont)  
 Under 15 boys doubles winners: James Harter & Andrew Rieper (Waterloo)  
 Under 17 singles winner: Hanna Squire  
 Under 17 doubles runners up: Hanna Squire & M McCarthy (Belmont)  
 Under 19 singles runner up: Hanna Squire

## BUILDING

Our Project Manager has been given instructions to prepare documents and design work to take to the market for tender with utmost urgency. We still seek donations to our building fund in order to fulfill 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.

## SERVICES

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 – Friday Night Club

In 1971 the Junior Club was born. Celebration was minimal – in fact few senior members were even aware that Ron Menchi had started to use the hall on Friday nights to give his own two sons (Graeme and Kevin) and the club's only other members under the age of 16 Warren and Neil Simpson, some extra coaching. From these humble beginnings the Friday junior club arose. The original foursome told their friends, whose acquaintances invited friends of other friends and by the end of that first season the Friday attendance was as high as 24. Most wanted coaching; some just wanted to play and enjoy the night out, so a pattern was set with Ron coaching in the small hall, while a continuous progressive tournament was run in the main hall by the juniors themselves, who derived immense enjoyment from announcing the matches over the newly acquired public address system. The initial growth of the Friday club was due entirely to Ron Menchi's devotion to it and the response to his novel ideas such as the "drink" games (the entire membership queuing up for a best of three points game with their coach, knowing that winning the game meant winning a drink). Also popular was his end of year bun fight with parents invited and family challenges abounding. Such was the enjoyment to be had at the Friday club that from 1972 onwards the growth was self-generating. Existing members kept on bringing more friends with them. The average attendance in 1972 rose to 36 and in 1973 further increased to 50. By now the "drink" games queue stretched halfway round the hall and other novelties were added. New members kept flooding in. Attendances in 1974 averaged well over 60 and in 1975 numbers between 80 and 90 were regular. A peak of 99 was hit in July 1975.

(Source: Empire Table Tennis Club Golden Jubilee Booklet article by John Kiley) For the next instalment see November's newsletter.

## PLAYER PROFILE

Chris Nightingale

**How long have you been playing table tennis?** Since I was a kid, played at Waterloo and Empire junior clubs. I've had a break of about fifteen years in between. It is hard to come back after a long break as the game has changed.

**How has the game changed?** The game is now a lot quicker, the rubbers are different. Once scriver and mark V were the top of the range rubbers, the blades have also changed and become quicker. There is more spin and disguising serves. The tables are not shorter, nor the nets higher although at times it feels like it.

**Why do you play table tennis?** For fitness, after two back injuries and surgery it is something I can do that is not too bad on my back.

**What do you enjoy about being a member of the Empire Club?** The personalities and the club atmosphere.

**How has the club changed?** The personalities are still there, a lot of younger ones. New table and floor.

## Calendar of Events

September 24 - October 2 .....	NZ Open in Auckland
September 29 .....	Friday Club Champs
September 30 .....	Board Meeting
October 20 .....	Names to John for TTW Composite Teams Competition
November 1 .....	Senior Club Presentation Night
November 3 .....	Composite Teams Competition starts
November 25.....	Midweek Club Christmas Luncheon
December 1 .....	Composite Teams Competition finishes