

EMPIRE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2014



Happy New Year to you all!

I hope you all had a good time over the festive season and are ready for some good table tennis this year, whether it be social or competitive.

Starting Dates

Monday nights – our official opening was Monday 27th January so if you haven't made it down yet we look forward to seeing you soon.

A reminder also that we offer **Coaching** on Monday nights with Depak, free of charge. All you need to do is put your name down in one of the available time slots when you arrive.

Midweek – the official opening for this was Tuesday 4th February so again if you haven't made it there on a Tuesday or Thursday yet the organisers will look forward to seeing you. There are good numbers of players coming along already.

Friday Junior Club – The first night for 2014 is Friday 7th March so not far away now. Put the date in your calendar and we'll look forward to seeing you on the night from 6.30 pm.

Subscriptions and Fees

First the good news that the **annual subs** are the same as the last few years at:

\$50.00 for adult members up to age 65

\$35.00 for adult members 65 years and over, and for students and beneficiaries

The **fees** however change. Thus takes effect with the official opening days for each session:

Session rate for members/juniors \$5.00

Visitors/non-members \$7.00 (first visit free)

Concession cards \$50.00 for 12 trips (2 free) (note any cards already purchased at the old rate are usable)

Bat hire - first time free, \$2 per session thereafter

We aim to have a stock of new bats for sale at the Club at all times to encourage members to purchase their own. Our loan bats get a tough life and are costing us to replace hence the small charge to hire.

The basic costs of running the club increase every year therefore we need to increase our regular income to help cover these. You are also aware we have a lot of extra costs associated with the leaky building and our long term goal of improving the facilities. As a result we hope you understand and support the Board in the decisions we have made.

Annual General Meeting

This year it is **Monday 17th March** - keep the date free! The attached notification provides more details for this. It is very important you read and think about what you can do to help. Without more help, the Club's existence is threatened. We are only a small band of people and some of us are doing too much. We also have other lives and some of us are not prepared to put the same number of hours into running the Club this year that we did last year. If you want the Club to continue get in behind us. Being on the Board is not a frightening experience – our meetings are fairly social, and never run beyond 10.00 pm. There is a reasonable amount of administrative and table tennis experience on the Board to assist any new members. We would also welcome new ideas as well as simply more people.

Volunteers

We also need volunteers to help run the club on **Monday nights** and for the **Friday night** junior club. This involves learning about the procedures for the specific session and otherwise just coming along when you are rostered on and helping. For further details, ring or talk to Martin Young for Monday nights - martin.young@printlink.co.nz and Pep O'Connor for Fridays - pepoconnor@gmail.com or phone 938 2562.

Website

Now for some good news Chris Williams has been working hard over the last few months and has created a new more up to date website. The old one had been down a lot last year with problems with our provider and was getting outdated in terms of "freshness". Have a look at our new easy to navigate website at the same URL as before...

<http://www.empirett.org.nz/>

Thanks Chris for your hard work. If you have any ideas for content or news snippets let us know and we'll get them added. We want to keep the website up to date with news, although will also continue to use it as an archive of past events.

January Statistics for Website use

We thought these might be of interest, especially as there has been no external publicity that the site is up and running and also as the website was not live for a full month.

| January 2014 | Unique Visitors | Page Views |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| Maximum Daily | 144 | 174 |
| Minimum Daily | 47 | 50 |
| Average Daily | 81 | 99 |

Fire Drills

We have been advised as a condition of our insurance that we should run fire drills. We are still thinking about how this might be achieved. However one thing we do need to advise you all of is an assembly point. This has been discussed at the Board and we have agreed that walking to the rugby league training grounds is the best option – it does not involve walking or waiting on the road and can be accessed from all emergency doors.

We have also been advised that the glass entrance doors should be kept closed all the time. So apologies, even if it is a bit hot at this time of the year we cannot latch them open. We will get a sign put on the doors saying to please leave them closed.

Empire Table Tennis Tables on the move

You may not be aware that occasionally a table leaves the stadium! Currently we have one in use at the James Cook Hotel by the 7s teams staying at the Hotel. This is an annual use and in return the James Cook provide a voucher for a night in the hotel. This will be the first prize in a raffle starting soon.

We also have a table at the Circa Theatre being used as a prop for the play **Kings of the Gym**. This is very funny, although one does need an open mind. By the time this newsletter is read it is likely that the play will have finished and the table collected.

We need to thank John Kane for his continued willingness to transport tables to and from the various venues in his own time and at his own cost. Members need to be aware that in order to keep the Club operating volunteers can contribute more than is immediately obvious.

Raffle

The raffle including the night at the James Cook Hotel will need to run very soon to give people a reasonable chance to use the voucher. If you have any other goods or services through a business which would make good raffle prizes please let Maggie know – email maggie.dyer@paradise.net.nz or phone 5899 140.

Summer Interclub

If you would like to play in the summer interclub competition please email Raewyn raewyny@nzno.org.nz or Maggie maggie.dyer@paradise.net.nz or leave your name with a session organiser by Monday 24th February. Teams will be two player with games from Wednesday 5th March to Wednesday 16th April.

For more details see the TTW Blog:

<http://ttwblog.wordpress.com/2014/02/10/summer-interclub-schedule-and-entry-form/>

Finale

Looking forward to seeing you all back for another year of good table tennis!

And a reminder all this news will be on our website so bookmark this and keep reading to stay up to date!

<http://www.empirett.org.nz/>