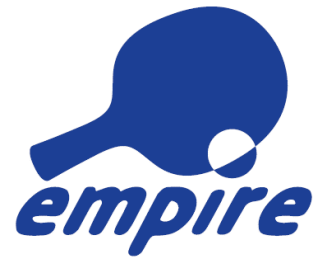


EMPIRE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2014



Hi all,

It is well time we provided an update as to what is happening at Empire! Not sure where the time has gone this year... As far as the building is concerned the Board is pleased to announce that Hutt City Council has granted us Code of Compliance for the extension. As part of this process John has constructed a new ramp with a handrail from the Emergency doors at the end of the Mix and Mingle area. In the event of an emergency it will be easier to exit through these doors if this is the closest way to get out. We are trying to make some progress on remedying the building's other issues.

Fundraising

Raffle

The first raffle of the year was finally sold out – it never ceases to amaze us how long this takes as there were only 150 tickets and we have a lot more members than that! Anyway we are pleased to announce the winners:

1st prize James Cook night and breakfast – Percy Kwing

2nd prize 2 bottles of wine and Empire Jubilee glasses (the last ones of these) – Lisa McGregor

3rd prize 2 bottles of wine – Tina Ng

4th prize 2 jubilee beer glasses – Maggie Dyer

Congratulations to all of you.

Movie

We continued the trend of an annual night at the movies – this time to **the Grand Budapest Hotel**. As we had heard quite good things about the movie we took the largest cinema at the Lighthouse and were pleased to sell all the tickets - although there were a lot of Maggie's friends in attendance once again! The movie was interesting but probably not as good as we had all expected. The Board with assistance from a few other helpers provided a nice supper – thank you all.

There were two lucky number prizes won by Ann Wilson and Pep O'Connor.

Raffle 2

Although we hear a few groans here we have not reached our budgeted fundraising amount as yet this year. This one will be 100 tickets with 3 prizes and we would very much appreciate your support. Thank you in advance – a sellout equals a very useful \$200.00 as all prizes donated.

Expensive year

Not only have we not reached our fundraising target but we have had an expensive year. The Club did not have code of compliance for the new building and while we are pleased to say we have now got this it has been an expensive process. There have been various repairs and additions including a new exit ramp for emergencies mentioned above. Re-using an old door at that end at the time of building was apparently not legal so we also have to replace this – at an estimated cost of up to \$3,000. We have also recently been recommended that the plywood outside of the extension needs to be painted – as this is very high we will need to pay commercial painters to action.

Obviously the raffle isn't going to pay for this but all fundraising efforts help, as do your playing fees.

Winter Interclub

Congratulations to the Elves (Travis Dyer, Cayden Larson, Conor McCarthy and Jimi Nelson) who won the Division 3 competition, beating the Waterloo Whippets 6-5. Well done to you all! The boys came 2nd in the 1st series but “conquered” in the end to take the first place honours.

Empire Evils (Mat Hobbs, and Isaac Noanoa and Brendyn Shaw) played the Waterloo Wolves in the final of Division 1 losing 6-5. Empire Engines (Vlassi Benaki, Pete Douglas, and Terry Hooper and Murray McLeod (who didn't play this night) played Waterloo Whales to contest the Division 2 final and also lost 6-5.

There was a pattern here all matches 6-5 so all close! There were several other Empire teams playing in other finals across the grades on the night too. It was a good night of competition, hopefully enjoyed by all players and spectators. For those wanting to know, Waterloo Wasps beat Titan Terriers in the final of the Premier Division.

There are some great photos of the action at finals at <http://ttwblog.wordpress.com/>.

TTW Junior Development Tournament results

The second Junior Development Tournament of 2014 was held at Empire on Sunday 21st September with several Empire boys playing. There was a good spirit of competition on the day and we had some successes as follows. Well done to all players.

Winner under 14 singles top 4 : Liam Buckrell

Runner-up under 14 singles top 4 : Calvin Li

Winner under 14 singles middle 4 : Jet Hogan

Runner-up under 14 singles middle 4 : Alexander Yan

Winners under 14 doubles : Liam Buckrell and Calvin Li

Winner under 12 singles top 4 : Calvin Li

Runner-up under 12 singles top 4 : Jet Hogan

3rd place under 12 singles top 4 : Jimi Nelson

Runner-up under 12 singles bottom section : Sione Uhi

Winner under 12 doubles : Jet Hogan

Runner-up under 12 doubles : Jimi Nelson

Midweek Tournament

The annual tournament was held on Thursday 18th September with players from around the region attending. A great day was had by all accounts and Empire players had a fair bit of success as follows:

Warren Mak & David Chow: Winners, Group 1 **Rob Chung & Paul Solt:** Runners Up, Group 1

Norman Chan & Allen Tso: Winners, Group 2 **Tina Ng & Anna Chung:** Runners Up, Group 2

Kevin Tse & Buck Chan: Winners, Group 3

Bill Kilmartin & Kheng Tang: Winners, Group 6

Paul Maunsell & Percy Kwing: Runners Up, Group 7

Sean Gribbon & Bruce McKenna: Winners, Group 8 **Penn Pattison & Emma Jin:** Runners Up, Group 8

TTW Composite Interclub

This started on Wednesday 22nd October and runs until Wednesday 3rd December with no play on Wednesday 5th November, Guy Fawkes. Unfortunately this newsletter is too late to request entries for this competition, although if you are able to play occasionally it would be useful to let us know as we often need replacements owing to other commitments / illnesses.

Junior club

Coming up the junior champs – to be eligible to play in these you must have attended club on a minimum of 5 nights during the year.

7 November: Grades 9-12 and 5-8 champs

14 November : Grades 1-4 champs

21 November: Elborn Cup for boys 13 and under

28 November: Final night – entry is free if a plate of food to share is bought along. Normal charges apply if no plate bought.

Club Champs

These were held on Saturday 1st November with a small entry. Only the open and social events were played. The open had some good competition, while the social was impacted by a lack of entries.

Results as follows:

Open Singles Winner : Depak Patel ; runner-up Ian Talbot

Doubles winner : Depak Patel and Paul Brown ; runners-up Ian Talbot and Zhidong Yu

Open Plate winner: Min Su; runner-up Zhidong Yu

Social singles winner: Anita Crowe; runner-up Penn Pattison

Social doubles winners : Penn Pattison and Maggie Dyer (called to make a doubles!); runners-up Anita Crowe and Paul Pratchett

Xmas Dinner

This will be held Saturday 29th November at Cowboy Jack's, Daly Street, Lower Hutt. For those of you who know him, Steve Chapman has recently opened this restaurant so we thought we would try it for our Xmas / thank you dinner. We have booked the restaurant out – depending on numbers there will either be space to mingle or a full house! Cost expected to be \$35.00 each with wine / beer included but spirits on top.

If you are interested in attending this evening email Pep pepoconnor@gmail.com or Maggie maggie.dyer@paradise.net.nz.

Closing dates

Junior Club : Friday 28th November

Monday Club : Monday 15th December

Midweek Club: Tuesday 16th December

2015 Opening Dates

Monday Club : Mondays 12th, and 19th January for casual play; Official opening Monday 26th January

Midweek Club : from Tuesday 6th January for casual play; official opening Tuesday 3rd February

Friday Club : To be advised



Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to all our members. We'll look forward to seeing you all in 2015