



EMPIRE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2015

Welcome to 2015.

Both **Midweek Club** (Tuesday and Thursday mornings) and **Monday Night Club** are back operating as normal now.

The **Friday Night Junior Club** opens for social play on Friday 13th March for the 3 weeks before the end of term. The winter season will begin after the school holidays, on Friday 24th April.

We are looking forward to see all our members back and hopefully some new ones – bring your friends, neighbours, and families along.

However we do need to alert you to a serious issue we have at present....

Are you concerned about the future of the Club??

Our **Annual General Meeting** is scheduled for **Monday 30th March**. The notification and documents about the AGM are attached with this newsletter. You need to **read the following**:

While we appreciate that you really just want to play, a lot of work needs to happen behind the scenes to run the Club. The pressure of running the Club is on a handful of people, and this workload needs to be spread out. For several years we have operated with fewer Board members than required to run effectively. Our current Board are either non players or frequently sacrifice playing time to keep the Club functioning. These people have kept the club going in difficult circumstances without a Chair or Activities Convenor, meaning that existing members have had heavy workloads.

Now with Raewyn Young indicating that she will not stand again in the Finance portfolio, and John Kane, the Building Convenor, indicating he has a definite preference not to stand we have reached the point where we can no longer continue like this and more people have to come forward to help. **We need to spread the workload** and our Constitution specifies that we should have 5- 6 Board members. Board work is divided into portfolios arranged by activity. It is important to note that portfolio holders are responsible for seeing the work happens but do not necessarily have to do it all themselves.

This is a **cry for help** if you want the Club to operate **this year**. If we do not get people standing for these positions we will be forced to take other more drastic actions. The situation:

Preferred option: People come forward to help, and the club continues to operate.

Alternatively:

1. We have a special meeting to discuss options for the future of the club.
2. Subscriptions are radically increased for all members and we look at employing someone to do some of the work
3. The club is no longer viable – legally we cannot operate without 5-6 Board members as spelled out by the Constitution and basic functioning becomes questionable without people to undertake basic maintenance, pay bills, and buy supplies etc

Can you think of any other options???

Note if you are interested in joining the Board, but the roles as listed concern you please talk to a Board member or ring Maggie 5899 140 or Pep 938 2562, as there may be other opportunities. Note nominations for Board positions cannot be made at the meeting.

If you want us to continue to exist and provide a playing venue for your table tennis you need to act now! We don't want to take drastic measures but may be forced to. Nominations and notification of any general business to be discussed needs to be posted to the club or placed in the box in the Club by **Friday 20th March 2015**.

Volunteers to help with Club Sessions

We also need people to help run all our Club Sessions.

Running Midweek this year are Merv Allardyce and George Geris on Tuesdays and Arthur Lee and Norman Chan on Thursdays. Thanks to you all. However while we have good session organizers people are needed to help wash the dishes, take the tea-towels home to wash – why not share the load so the same people do not have to do these chores all the time?

Monday and Friday Club nights both need people to help our organizers so that the evenings run smoothly.

- Monday nights we need a roster of people to help Martin run the games. Ideally 2-3 volunteers taking turns would be great – there is a bit to learn so it is useful to be on duty fairly regularly – but there is no reason why this can't be done in conjunction with playing. All volunteers get a free evening on the night they help. Also we could do with some volunteers to put out and clear up after the supper – we see you all enjoying it so how about taking a turn to wash the dishes rather than leaving it all for Martin. Spontaneous help here would be much appreciated for this one.
- Friday nights we need people to welcome the children, collect money, enter their names on the computer and supervise children.

Summer Interclub

TTW's two player team summer competitions is almost under way with entries now closed. If you have indicated that you are playing be at the Club on **Wednesday 25th February** when games start. Be there by 7.00 pm – the hall will be open slightly earlier than this for a hit up. The competition is for the 6 weeks going through to Wednesday 1st April.

Further information can be found on the TTW Blog

<https://ttwblog.wordpress.com/2015/02/02/2015-summer-interclub/>

Remember to keep an eye on what is happening through our website. www.empirett.org.nz/, particularly the Latest News page which is regularly updated with all club news: <http://www.empirett.org.nz/latest-news> and if you sign up to the mailing list we will email you when there is an update.

Raffle

The first raffle of the year is under way with four great prizes. The James Cook has once again been generous in donating prizes as a result of having a loan table for teams staying at the hotel at the Sevens. We noticed too that having a multi-ticket on offer was popular last time so have repeated that. Prizes are as follows:

1. Night and breakfast at the James Cook
2. *The family cookbook* by Kerryann Dunlop (Jamie Oliver student)
3. Bottle each of red and white wine donated by the James Cook
4. Empire multi-session ticket

Please support your club by getting a ticket or ticket(s).

Subscriptions

Yes these are now due for 2015 – they are payable from now and they cover up to 31st March 2016. Any subs not paid by 31st March 2015 are deemed overdue and the individual will need to pay the \$7.00 visitor fee. Once again the good news is that these have not increased again this year.

\$35.00 for anyone 65 years and over, tertiary student and beneficiary

\$50.00 for all other adults

School children attending any session only pay the \$5.00 session fee

Anyone attending Sunday Club including non members also only pay \$5.00. Note that this is a very casual club.

Finally

We hope you will give serious consideration to helping us out and helping to keep Empire going – after all there has been table tennis at Empire since 1934! It is great to see you're enjoying the Table Tennis but this does need administrative effort of session organizer, volunteers and Board members.

Thank you
Empire Table Tennis Club Board

