



Empire Newsletter

May 2016

Ron Menchi

It is very sad to report that Ron, who would have been a member of our club for longer than anyone, sadly passed away on 11th April. He had been ill for some time but his death was sudden in the end. Ron joined the club in 1949, which was before a good number of members were born and was still actively involved with the Junior Club this decade. In fact he started the Junior Club in 1971 as he saw a need to encourage juniors in the Valley to play. Among the many roles Ron held over this 60 year time period are Club Captain, Board member, coach, mentor, session organiser for Monday and Junior Club and of course a Monday and Midweek player – a very competitive one at that! In saying that a little personal note I always used to enjoy it when I heard that I would be playing Ron in the next Monday night game! Ron was also very active in terms of getting anything done with our buildings from maintenance to extensions and in order to help keeping the club financial he was always organising or heavily involved in fundraising.

It was great to see such a good turnout of table tennis people, both current and past members, at Ron's funeral. A chat with Merv led to a very effective Guard of Honour as the casket was carried out, with many members wearing their red shirts. Ron's legacy will be remembered going forward as his name is on a Club Trophy – very fittingly the Ron Menchi cup for the "Best Club Member." A great way to honour perhaps the Best Club Member Empire has had.

Wider than Empire Ron was a Life Member and Hall of Fame for TTNZ, a member of TTNZ Executive from 1965-1996 (32 years), and Vice-President of TTW – a recognition of his contributions to table tennis in the region and nationally. I think everyone will agree that this commitment and dedication to a sport Ron loved would be hard to beat. It will be very strange around Empire for some time thinking Ron is not there, although of recent years his ill health had stopped him from participating and coming down. His last visit to the stadium was probably in 2015 when one of his sons bought him down to see what was happening and fittingly it was a Schools Tournament.

Our sincere condolences to Lea, sons Graeme, Kevin and families.



Ron at the 2013 Midweek Tournament with Colin Gray



And a proud Ron presenting the Ron Menchi Cup to the Best Club Member to John Kane – the first recipient at the 2013 prize giving



2013 Midweek Xmas Lunch with Ethel Gray, Merv Allardyce, Santa, Lea and Ron Menchi

Fundraising

Movie – *Florence Foster Jenkins*

Empire going to the movies has become an annual event and one that makes a large contribution to our fundraising. This year we have the 80 seat theatre and it would be great to have it full. So please seriously consider coming along, ask friends, neighbours, relatives, other members too. There will be a little bit of supper, some lucky number tickets and hopefully a great night out.

The story – Starring Meryl Streep as Florence, it is the true story of a woman who wanted to become a great singer but who wasn't. Husband, Hugh Grant tried to protect her from knowing the truth – the movie is rumoured to be one of his greatest performances as an actor.

When – Tuesday 10th May, Lighthouse Cinema, Petone at 8.00 pm (7.30 for supper and drink purchase). **There are a few tickets left but you will need to be in quick.**

For more information: <http://www.lighthousecinema.co.nz/movie/single/florence-foster-jenkins/>

The Raffle

Thanks to those who have purchased tickets to date – we are about 1/3 sold.

With 6 prizes this year and only 150 tickets the odds are good. Currently we have 120 members who have paid subs in 2016 and there are others who must be close to paying as well as the junior club and many people who elect to play as casuals. One \$2.00 raffle ticket per person would see this sold...there will be a few people because of religious beliefs don't support raffles, but probably not many....and others of you who always buy more than one ticket.

Fundraising for the Club is necessary so we are asking for your support – don't always leave it to the same few people. Two great opportunities at present with the movie and raffle – so please get in and give us your support.

TTW Winter Interclub

This is due to commence Tuesday 17th (Premier / Division 2) and Wednesday 18th May (Divisions 1 and 3). Have a think about whether you'd like to play in a 3-person team, 4-person team or just be available as a reserve player. **Please let us know by return email if you are interested.**

Coaching

Depak offers coaching on a Monday night for all members. Sessions are 15 minutes and run from 8.30 – 10.00 pm. You can put your name down when you arrive and coaching is generally on a first in basis. However if you are regularly missing out please let us know as there may be a need to cap the number of sessions any one player can have during the year.

Results

Lots of these – see below!

TTW Wellington Veterans

This wasn't a large entry but there were some great games! The results were:

Over 40 combined singles – Winner Depak Patel, Runner-up Jo Roberts

Over 40 doubles – Winner Depak Patel (with Bryan McConnochie), Runner-ups Zhidong Yu (with Mat Hobbs)

Over 50 singles – Runner-up Depak Patel

Over 50 doubles – Winner Ian Talbot (with Lindsay Ward), Runners-up Zhidong Yu and Paul Solt

Over 60 men's singles - Runner-up Ian Talbot

Over 60 men's doubles – Winners Ian Talbot (with Lindsay Ward)

Over 70 men's singles – Winner Tony Rutledge

Over 70 men's doubles – Runners-up Tony Rutledge and Penn Pattison

New Zealand Veterans – Easter

A few players travelled to Palmerston North for the annual Vets tournament and there were some successes.

Gold over 50 men's B grade teams – Chris Talbot and John Gan

Silver over 65 men's teams – Tony Rutledge (with Bryan McConnochie)

Gold over 60 men's doubles – Ian Talbot (with Lindsay Ward)

TTW Summer Interclub

Empire had a good number of players competing in this competition. The results were:

Division 1:

2nd Nomads – John Gan and Chris Talbot

3rd Emperors – Ian Talbot and Zhidong Yu

5th Titanium – Depak Patel and Ryan Cronin

Grade champs : Singles - Depak Patel 1st, Ian Talbot 2nd

Doubles - Ian Talbot and Bryan McConnochie winners with Depak Patel and Ryan Cronin runners up.

Division 2:

1st Empire Empresses – Jo Roberts and Raewyn Young

6th Empire Emissaries – Darrell Brown and Russell Buchanan

Division 3:

1st Empire Enigmas – Basil Kananghinis and Om Thakur

2nd Empire Enforcers – Liam Johnston and Ian Grace

3rd Empire Envoys – Sandeep Shivakumar and Graham Sole

5th Young and Dangerous – Soichiro Eguchi and Travis Dyer

Grade champs : Singles - Om Thakur 2nd

Doubles Graham Sole and Ian Grace winners

TTW Autumn Open

Hot off the press and held at Empire over ANZAC weekend, there was a good atmosphere and spirit of competition. Wow what a great turnout of Empire players and results!

B Grade singles – Winner Depak Patel

C Grade Singles - Runner-up Ryan Cronin

Over 25 doubles – Runners-up Ryan Cronin and Simon Jung

Over 35 singles – Winner Depak Patel

Over 35 doubles – Winner Depak Patel (with David Buckrell)

Over 35 doubles – Runners-up Simon Jung and Robbie Chung

Over 45 singles – Runner-up Depak Patel

Over 45 doubles – Winner Ian Talbot (with Lindsay Ward)

Over 45 doubles – Runner-up Depak Patel (with Bryan McConnochie)

Over 55 singles – Runner-up Ian Talbot

Over 65 singles - Winner Tony Rutledge

Under 16 doubles – Winner Jimi Nelson (with Liam Buckrell)

Under 14 doubles - Winner Jimi Nelson (with Liam Buckrell)

Over 35 Plate – Winner Simon Jung

Over 35 Plate – Runner-up Amit Saboo

Over 45 Plate - Winner Tony Rutledge

Under 16 Plate – Winner Jimi Nelson

Under 14 Plate – Winner Jimi Nelson

Subscriptions

These are now overdue – seniors \$60.00 and concession \$40.00 (over 65, tertiary students and beneficiaries). If you haven't paid you will find yourself paying \$8.00 per session so on your next visit please become a financial member.

Volunteers

I'm sure there will be a few groans here however members need to know the club does not run itself. There are very few people running the Club and we could do with some more help, especially on Monday nights to help with organising games. Monday players need to note that **without further offers of help there will be no organised games**. Ideally we would have 4-6 people so the job could be shared. Please think about giving something back to the Club and help us out to the benefit of everyone.

We are getting some great support from Friday night parents so thank you for that – your help is much appreciated and will help to keep this club operating.

Coming Up

TTW Junior Development Tournament

This is scheduled for Sunday 12th June – details to follow. However please note this is a good tournament for all our Juniors to enter.

TTW Wellington Open

Dates for 2016 are Saturday 30th July and Sunday 31st July. Details for this tournament will also be out very soon.

Wow a bumper issue I hope you have enjoyed reading this and finding out more about what is happening in your Club