



Empire Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2017

Happy New Year

Welcome to 2017! It is great to see so many of you back playing early in the season. Midweek in particular has started with a “bang”. Monday, less so as there have been two Public Holidays since we opened, although a good number of players attended this week. It is a time of year when we welcome members from other clubs, owing to the fact other clubs open a little later. This provides opportunities to play different people. We have purchased some more **bats** to on sell – these will suit beginners and intermediate players and can be purchased for \$40.00 from session organisers.

The Board is pleased to announce that Russell Buchanan has been co-opted to the Board to take over as Chairperson from Maggie. We welcome Russell back to this role – he held it previously from 2003-2006 so brings experience to the position. Maggie intends to stay on the Board, but after 4.5 years in this role and doing a myriad of other activities, it is great to have Russell back and being able to share the work load.

Subscriptions and fees...

Fees : We are pleased to say that the session fees for 2017 remain the same.

Members / school students : \$5.00

Multicard: \$50.00 for 12 sessions (member only concession)

Non-members : \$8.00

Subs: These also remain the same as last year

Adult sub: \$60.00

Concession sub (over 65, tertiary students, beneficiaries): \$40.00

Subs are due for payment by 31st March 2017, after this date all non-member players will need to pay \$8.00 per visit.

Raffle Results

Special thanks to Arthur for taking the last 2016 raffle to the Midweek Xmas lunch and to Karen Barris who persuaded attendees to support! Congratulations to all our winners:

1. Robert Chung - Pinot Noir

2. Merv Allardyce - Sauvignon Blanc

3 & 4 Mercene Zacoumis - Multi ticket and Chardonnay bonus draw

Raffle (new)

A table and equipment was supplied to the James Cook for use by Rugby 7s players this year. Thanks to Rob Chung for stepping in to transport the table to and from the James Cook. This “hire” means we have a night at the James Cook to raffle, plus some wine to be used as we see fit, including for this new raffle. A multicard will make up the prizes too, and have proved a popular addition to our raffle prizes. We have approximately 150 adult members so if everyone supported their Club by buying one ticket we would be sold out in a week. Can we break the records here?

Volunteers

It is early in the year, so a good chance for you to think about whether you can help in any way to spread the load for our administrators who are also volunteers. Aside from joining the Board there are other ways you can help.

1. **Monday night session organisers.** We are still keen to recruit some assistance to help Martin and Ian run Monday nights. With a pool of volunteers everyone would still get plenty of game time and may be able to keep the Club open on some holiday weekends. If you can help please talk to Martin or Ian, our Activities Convenor.
2. **Parents for Friday night juniors.** Junior Club is expected to start on the 24th March, running for 3 weeks before the Easter break to give everyone a chance to get “back into playing” and to welcome new members. Parent / guardian volunteers will be required to help each Friday. A shop is run each week and having extra adults on the premises is essential for health and safety reasons. Helping out, even once or twice a term is appreciated. Look out for further updates.
3. **People with time or skills to help progress building redevelopment.** Owing to other commitments, there has been no progress on building redevelopment. Do you have skills or time that may help us to move forward with this project?
4. **Dishes.** Yes I believe Midweek has this under control so that the “load” of doing the dishes is spread around. Thank you to all who help with this. On Monday Martin does the dishes each week – it would be great to change this and have volunteers each week so that Martin can get a chance to have a game or two. Can we have some volunteers please – next Monday?

Coming up

TTW Summer Interclub

Summer Interclub is the 2 person club team competition held most years. It is to be played on Wednesdays for 6 weeks commencing Wednesday 1st March. Entries are due Wednesday 22nd February so get in quick if you would like to play - let session organisers know or reply to this email.

TTW Vets Tournament

Empire Table Tennis Club, Saturday 18th March. This tournament is for anyone over the age of 40 whether you are wanting serious practice for the National Vets or just a few games. There are several age groups – keep an eye out on the TTW new website for more information.

NZ Veterans Tournament

This is to be held in Christchurch this year, 14th – 18th April (Easter Weekend). For entry forms see TTNZ <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz/>

TTW Autumn Open

More details later but pencil in the weekend of 29th / 30th April for this event.

ETTC AGM

This will be **Monday 20th March, 8.00pm**, Empire Club Rooms. See the attached notification for more details, and think about whether you can help us by joining the Board. The Annual Report is being worked on now and we hope to have it to you soon. Special thanks to Kevin Haines for compiling the financial statements to a stage for auditing. We look forward to seeing you all there!