



# Empire Newsletter

MAY 2019

Welcome to another update from the Club, highlighting recent successes and upcoming events.

## Membership and Subscriptions

All our normal club sessions for Tuesday and Thursday Midweek, Friday juniors and Monday night are running for the year. We would like to welcome several new members with a good number of these attending the Monday night club.

All areas of the Club would welcome new members but especially our Midweek and Friday night sessions.

Do you know any recently retired people looking for new activities? People with time in the day? If so ask them about coming and having a look on a Tuesday or Thursday morning. Some socialising and exercise - what could be better?

Also do you know some young people who might be interested in table tennis - the Friday night junior club would be very keen to see them.

### Subscriptions

A big thank you to everyone who took note of the request to pay these promptly this year. We still have a few subs outstanding, mainly people who have been away and a few others but basically a great effort thank you!

Like last year a percentage of this amount will go to our Building Fund. We are actively trying to increase this so we would appreciate your support with any fundraising also. Another significant proportion of your sub money goes to TTW and then onto TTNZ as an "affiliation fee".

For more information on membership see our Website <http://www.empirett.org.nz/to-play.html>

## Summer Interclub

We had a good number of Empire players in this competition and most people seem to be enjoying the 2 match format! The competition was pretty hard fought and great for spectator viewing too. When the games were close, there were some late nights in some instances.

Empire was also very successful winning both divisions - congratulations! Division 1 with the Achievers team of Chris Talbot and John Gan. The Family team of James and Yufeng Wang were second - Yufeng got a very creditable average for a first season. Division 2 also saw an Empire team victorious with the Fighters Leigh Grinlinton and Michael Stechman proving too strong on the night for the Opposites - Liam Johnston and Michael Onganon. A very close competition in this 2nd division as although both teams had the same number of points at the end of the round robin, the Opposites were ahead at the end of the round robin as their game statistics were better.

## Hot off the press....

Empire has just hosted the **University Table Tennis Champs** for 2019. A great day was had and some of our members featuring - James Harter and Lisa Yue playing for the Victoria University men's and women's teams respectively and Michael Onganon playing for Whitireia men's. The event also featured some other Wellington players we see at Empire from time to time. Both Victoria teams finished third gaining Bronze medals, beaten to Gold by the University of Auckland. On a personal note both my old universities but I would have preferred the local one to triumph!

John Lea from Table Tennis New Zealand ran the tournament, with help from Kevin Haines, Andrew Maguire, Rob Chung, Gabrielle Telfer and I was there with a catering hat on. Gabrielle was chiefly there to provide a qualified First Aid person. We appear to have very few qualified **First Aid people at Empire**. However our records in this respect are old - if you have a current certificate could you please contact me and I'll update the records. Also if you think our records may not be up to date as far your address is concerned please advise. Thank you in advance!

Lisa has also very recently returned from representing New Zealand at the **World Individual Championships** in Budapest. Naturally some very strong competition but a wonderful experience for her.

## Tournament Results

There have been several featuring Empire players in the first few months of the year. Details as follow:

### NZ Masters at Wanganui

The first tournament of the year and here we go:

Over 35 men's singles: Bronze - Zhidong Yu; Silver - Depak Patel

Over 45 men's singles: Bronze - Depak Patel

Over 55 men's singles: Silver - Zhidong Yu

Over 55 women's singles: Gold - Leigh Grinlinton

Over 35 men's doubles: Gold - Darrell Brown and Depak Patel

Over 55 men's doubles: Gold Zhidong Yu (with Subhash Batra)

Over 70 women's doubles: Bronze - Mary Muir (with Trish Sinkinson)

Over 75 women's doubles: Bronze - Mary Muir (with Joan Aupouri)

Over 45 mixed doubles: Silver - Leigh Grinlinton (with Subhash Batra)

Over 55 mixed doubles: Gold - Leigh Grinlinton (with Gerard Nimal Lucas)

Over 35 3 person team: Gold - Darrell Brown, Depak Patel and Zhidong Yu

Over 45 2 person team: Bronze - Tony Rutledge and Zhidong Yu; Silver - Chris and Ian Talbot; Gold - Darrell Brown and Depak Patel

Over 55 2 person team: Gold - Chris and Ian Talbot

### Wellington Vets

A small entry this year but a good spirit of competition. Empire successes are:

Over 40 doubles: Runners-up - John Gan and Zhidong Yu

Over 50 singles: Winner - Depak Patel

Over 50 doubles: Runners-up Leigh Grinlinton (with Lindsay Ward); Winners: Darrell Brown and Depak Patel

Over 40 consolation singles: Winner - Darrell Brown

Over 50 consolation singles: Runner-up - Paul Solt; Winner - Harry Chen

### National Veterans at Taupo

A few Empire players spent the weekend at Taupo this Easter. The competition was very strong with a lot of Australian players attending too. Hope you all enjoyed the weekend away. Results from our Empire players are as follows:

Leigh Grinlinton - runner-up over 60 mixed doubles - playing with Lindsay Ward.

Chris Talbot - 4th over 60 men's doubles, playing with Lindsay as well.

## Autumn Open

Another great weekend at Empire with an enjoyable TTW tournament! There were lots of Empire players as well as other Wellington and further afield competitors. The shop and catering services were busy with over \$400.00 being taken - note costs to come out of this, although there is always a reasonable amount of profit from the actual catering with a smaller margin from "shop" sales. Empire player results are as follows:

Open men's doubles: Winners - James Harter and Bruno Omizu

B grade singles: Runner-up - Zhidong Yu

C grade singles: Runner-up - Paul Solt

D grade singles: Runner-up - Peter Bloor; Winner - Swapneel Dias

Over 25 doubles: Winners - Ryan Cronin and Depak Patel

Over 35 singles: Winner - Depak Patel

Over 35 doubles: Runners-up - Andrew Maguire (with Nabe Tioti); Winners - Depak Patel and Daniel Rosner

Over 45 singles: Runner-up - Depak Patel

Over 45 doubles: Runners-up - Leigh Grinlinton (with Lindsay Ward); Winners - Darrell Brown and Depak Patel

Over 55 singles: Winner - Zhidong Yu

Over 55 doubles: Runners-up - Leigh Grinlinton (with Lindsay Ward); Winners - Paul Solt and Zhidong Yu

Under 21 singles consolation: Runner-up - Olly Evans

Over 25 singles consolation: Runner-up - Andrew Maguire

Over 35 singles consolation: Runner-up - Liam Johnston; Winner - Darrell Brown

Over 45 singles consolation: Runner-up - Andrew Maguire

## Winter Interclub

This has started now - good luck to all our teams. Remember if you would like to try out interclub we would still appreciate having more reserves available so email us [interclub@empirett.org.nz](mailto:interclub@empirett.org.nz). If you are in a team and cannot play on a given night contact your team captain and / or email us - as much notice as possible is appreciated. It is great to see we have a Division 3 junior team - good luck Jake and Storm.

## Movie Fundraiser - Sometimes always never

*"Able to blend charming gruffness and winning affability with just the raise of an eyebrow, Bill Nighy has long proven himself one of Britain's best character actors, and now he stars alongside Sam Riley and Alice Lowe in this stylish and heartfelt comedy-drama about a tailor searching for a lost son. Sharp of both wit and vocabulary, Nighy (The Bookshop), is winningly deadpan as Scrabble-obsessed Merseyside tailor Alan, whose eldest son Michael stormed out of the house after a particularly heated round of the popular board game, never to return. Years later, Alan and his other son Peter (Sam Riley) continue the search while trying to repair their own strained relationship. Working from a witty and astute script by veteran screenwriter Frank Cottrell-Boyce (The Railway Man, Goodbye Christopher Robin), Liverpoolian director Carl Hunter deploys a vivid visual style and striking production design to capture the shifting moods of a family who know plenty of words but struggle to communicate. A triple score-worthy supporting cast includes Jenny Agutter and Tim McInnerny."*

Yes we are going to try this fundraiser again as it is a good way to raise more funds. However we do need your support! If you can ask friends, neighbours, family too that is even better.

Date: Sunday 16th June

Time: 5.00pm

Where: Lighthouse Petone

Cost: \$20.00

Tickets can be purchased from the Club through session organisers, from Board members and by emailing me.

## Short Notes

### Coaching

Coaching on Monday is running with our experienced coach, Depak Patel. Depak runs six 15 minute sessions from 8.30 - 10.00 pm. Registration each week is by putting your name down on the list when you arrive. These sessions are a good opportunity for members to benefit from Depak's experience. If you would like to take coaching further, talk to Depak to find out about private coaching options. Some evenings Martin may put out the robot and / or offer some extra coaching also so there are plenty of opportunities for players to look to improve their game..

### Bats

There are some more **bats** on hand for sale – these will suit beginners and intermediate players and can be purchased for **\$45.00** from session organisers.

### Junior Club

As mentioned in the introduction, we would really like to grow the Junior Club. Numbers have got very low. Also parents / guardians if you can help with general supervision, running the shop or anything else please fill in the board at the Club or let us know .

### Volunteers

The Board and session organisers are key in keeping the club running for our members. However we need some help. We are still keen to have more volunteers to help run Monday nights - with 2 people rotating per night, the organisers would have more chance to play. Note no session fee is payable on the night you volunteer!

### Coming up

#### **Junior Development Tournament**

Sunday 16th June at Empire. Details to follow but there will be events for all age group juniors. These tournaments are a very good introduction to some slightly more serious play so keep the date free.

#### **Wellington Open**

Saturday 27th July / Sunday 28th July at Empire. Details for this to follow, but again keep the dates free. There will be opportunities for all club members to play, and those who do not wish to play come and watch. There is usually some good table tennis.

#### **Queen's Birthday Monday**

As usual with Public Holidays we will NOT be open this night.

#### **Casual play opportunities**

We are looking into getting a system which would allow easy access to the club so that members could hire a table at times when there are no organised events. We are interested in knowing who would possibly be interested in playing casually.

We look forward to seeing you at the club both playing and also have a think about what you could do to support table tennis in our region.

Maggie Dyer

Membership and Communications

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Casual play Yes / No

First aid certificate Yes / No

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Current address (if new) \_\_\_\_\_