



Empire Newsletter

February 2020

Happy New Year and welcome to the first newsletter of 2020.

Club Sessions

Just in case you haven't heard we are back operating as normal for Monday nights and Tuesday and Thursday Midweek mornings now.

Sunday morning players continued on as usual through December / January but with good numbers for the time of year - hopefully the trend will continue. The casual sessions operating over January proved very popular with good turnouts on all days - Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Monday nights. So much so that we decided to break our normal rule and have a club night on Anniversary Monday! A popular move as we had over 20 attend. Midweek numbers have been reaching the 40s so people are keen. *Note we are still keen to recruit some more people to help out at Midweek - "many hands make light work" so please seriously consider whether you could take a turn to organise the morning and spread the load.* Talk to Merv or George if keen.

Subscriptions and Fees 2020

Thanks to a few of you who have already paid their 2020 subs. Rates are the same as last year and are as follows:.

\$75.00 adults

\$45.00 concession (tertiary students, gold card and community service card holders)

Session fees \$5.00 for members and juniors, \$8.00 for casual.

TTNZ Veterans Tournament

This is always a popular tournament with many of our players eligible to play in at least one event! It is held over Easter and this year in Christchurch, dates **9th to 13th April**.

Individual events can be entered through the Online registration system below. Any player not already registered must set up a login (top right hand panel on the page) in order to complete an entry form.

<http://ttnz.tournamentsoftware.com/#TabUpcoming>

Table Tennis Wellington is likely to endorse teams too, so if let us know if you are interested if the opportunity arises. Entries close Friday 6th March, but get in early as being Easter airfares will be potentially expensive and problematic, let alone accommodation.

TTW Veterans Tournament

The first tournament of the year on the local calendar. Keep **Saturday 21st March** free for this tournament which will be held at Empire. There is one stipulation you have to be at least turning 40 this year to be able to play! A note to everyone if you are reaching this milestone in 2020 (or a more mature one), you are eligible to play in that competition.

Everyone fortunate to have not reached 40 (or turning 40 in 2020), is welcome to come along as a spectator. The Empire catering service of toasted sandwiches, bread rolls and slices will be operating. Remember any support equals a help towards fundraising. As a bonus you should get to see some good games.

Interclub Summer 2020

For those of you keen to play more competitively, there will be a summer competition in March. Details to follow, although it is expected to be the 2 person format and on Wednesday nights. Teams will not necessarily be club based also.

Fundraising - Chocolate

Last year, the club made a reasonable operating surplus which was great in terms of growing our funds. However we also need to be seen to be doing some fundraising and actively helping to top up our funds in order to apply for grants for our building or any other requirement. New tables are another obvious "requirement".

Therefore instead of selling a raffle at the beginning of the year, we are going to try **Chocolate fundraising**. It is quite some time since we had chocolate or sweet fundraising at the Club. We have 72 boxes with 36 chocolate bars in mixed flavours arriving very soon! This is a lot of chocolate so please take a box and see if you can sell it. Bars are \$2.00 each. We would very much appreciate not only those people who have potential access to workplaces, but all of you to think about friends, neighbours and relatives who maybe able to be persuaded to buy a couple of blocks from you. After all at least there is some definite reward with chocolate unlike raffles tickets where only a handful win out! **All profit goes to the building fund.**

Coaching Update

We hope to be able to announce a start date for the Monday coaching very soon. Watch this space. Merv is hoping to have some free time to help with coaching new members at Midweek, if sufficient help can be sourced to help run Midweek. Have a think about this and see if you could possibly take a turn in collecting money etc.

AGM time!

Yes an annual happening - this year the AGM will be held on **Monday 23rd March**, 8.00 pm at the Club.

Both the **Chairperson** and **Activities** positions have come up for re-election under the 2 year rotation model for Board positions. We need to retain these positions as they are, being core positions.

We also have vacancies for the **Commercial** and **Services Convenors**. These positions were vacant in 2019 and other Board members were sharing out the roles and keeping things running. It is important to note that these positions **do not have to be filled** with these titles. If you feel you can offer a bit of time up to help with the running of the club, contact one of us and talk about it. We can change the name / functions of positions but we do really want to recruit more Board members.

Nominations for positions and also notification of any general business needs to be submitted by **Monday 9th March**.

Mini Survey

There should be some of these forms at the Club and you will see the details in previously sent emails. We are still welcoming feedback on potential use of the club outside club sessions...and if you have moved, changed phone numbers or email please advise.

All that remains now is to welcome you back to another year of table tennis.

For more information on membership, remember to also direct people to our Website. and keep an eye on this yourselves! <http://www.empirett.org.nz/to-play.html>

Maggie Dyer

Membership and Communications