



Empire Newsletter

September 2021

Hi all

Welcome to the 3rd newsletter of 2021 and not the one we might expect as we now find ourselves in lockdowns once again. Still although the situation in Wellington is not great, we can be thankful we are here and not in Auckland or New South Wales I think! Hope you are all keeping safe and no doubt are looking forward to when we can get back to some sort of normal and also play table tennis.

Subscriptions and Fees 2021

These are in the main paid now for people who have been coming along most of the year. For NEW members from now to the end of November the subscription is reduced. Note this is for people new to the club only and anyone who has been coming along during the year should still pay the full amounts (\$75.00 and \$45.).

\$40.00 adults \$30.00 concession (tertiary students, gold card and community service card holders)

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

Results

We have been fortunate in our region in that we have held a Junior Development, the North Islands and the Wellington Open all before lockdown.

Junior Development

This was held at the end of June at Empire and a good number of our players entered. It was the first tournament experience for many of the players so hopefully everyone had a good day. The results for our players are listed as follows.

Under 12 boys singles: Winner - Oliver Griffin

Under 12 girls singles: Winner - Sophia Mathieson; Runner-up - Samantha Xu

Under 12 girls doubles: Winners - Samantha Xu / Ruby Wei-Solt; Runners-up: Sophia Mathieson / Zoe Mildenhall

Under 14 singles: Winner - Kieran Robinson

Under 14 consolation: Winner - Oliver Griffin; Runner-up Jayden Schmidt

Under 14 doubles: Winners - Samuel Bennion / Kieran Robinson

Under 17 singles: Winner - Kyle Stapelberg; Runner-up - Ryley Chin

North Islands (Wellington)

This was held at ETTC on 16th-18th July. We had a record entry for this tournament and the stadium was packed at times, especially on the Saturday! People attended from all over New Zealand so a good opportunity to see some good table tennis and for our players to have some different opponents.

A huge thank you to Kevin for all his work in organising the tournament and there was a good band of helpers throughout the weekend. It was great to see Rob Chung all weekend, playing an important role in organising and simply being there. These tournaments are a lot of work, although enjoyable experiences so thanks to everyone who lent a hand at some stage during the three days. Empire catering did well bringing

in a good amount of funds - thanks to Gabrielle and Sophie in particular who helped out here. Results for Empire players are shown below:

Over 40 men's singles: Silver - Darrell Brown

Over 50 men's singles: Gold - Depak Patel

Over 50 consolation singles: Runner-up - Averil Roberts

Over 60 men's singles: Silver - Martin Young

Over 70 men's singles: Gold - Tony Rutledge

B grade doubles: Gold - James Harter (/ Mark Page Waikato); Silver - Heath Murdoch / Callum Rusbridge

D grade doubles: Silver - Michael Onganon / Michael Stechman

Over 30 men's doubles: Gold - James Harter (/Mark Page Waikato)

Over 40 men's doubles: Gold - Heath Murdoch(/ David Jarvis Taupo); Silver Ian Talbot (/Lindsay Ward)

Over 50 men's doubles: Gold - Darrell Brown / Heath Murdoch; Silver - Ian Talbot (/ Lindsay Ward)

Over 60 men's doubles: Gold - Ian Talbot (/ Lindsay Ward); Silver - Paul Solt / Martin Young

Over 70 doubles: Gold - Averil Roberts /Tony Rutledge

Mixed doubles: Silver - Heath Murdoch (/ Sabine Westenra)

TTW Wellington Open

Held the weekend Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th August we were fortunate in getting this event in the week before lockdown. Not quite the same entry as last year, but still a very good turnout. Thanks once again to Kevin for his work in organising, along with Rob, Gabrielle and many others. Our results are:

B graded combined singles: Winner - James Harter

B grade men's doubles: Winner - James Harter (/ Mark Page)

C grade combined singles: Winner - Tony Rutledge; Runner-up - Paul Solt

C grade men's doubles: Winners - Om Thakur / Martin Young

D grade combined singles: Runner-up - Michael Stechman

D grade men's doubles: Winners - Liam Johnston / Michael Stechman

Under 13 doubles: Winner - Oliver Griffin (/Lucas Yang)

Under 15 doubles: Runners-up - Oliver Griffin (/Jacob Andrews)

Over 30 men's singles: Runner-up - Daniel Rosner

Over 30 combined doubles: Runners-up - Om Thakur (/James Wang)

Over 50 men's singles: Winner - Heath Murdoch

Over 50 men's doubles: Winners - Darrell Brown / Heath Murdoch; Runners-up - Martin Young (/Lindsay Ward)

Over 60 men's singles: Winner - Martin Young; Runner-up - Tony Rutledge

Over 60 men's doubles: Winners - Martin Young (/ Craig Gear); runners-up - Tony Rutledge (/Bryan Mcconnochie)

Winter Interclub

Series One was successfully concluded before the tournament season and lockdowns hit us. In Premier, there was a very strong Titan team who finished top of the round robins and easily held onto their top position beating the Empire Enforcers in the final. Well done to Darrell Brown, Ian Talbot and John Gan for their second place finishing. Division One saw some pretty intense competition at the top of the grade between two Empire Teams and an Onslow Titan team. The Enigmas finished top of the Round Robin with the Emperors one point ahead of Onslow Titan. The final saw the Enigmas team of Tony Rutledge, Peter Bloor and Nevol Manase beat the Emperors team of

Liam Johnston and the two Michaels - Stechman and Onganon. However it was close and there were some very close games. Well done all and congratulations to the Enigmas, holders of the Chris Williams Trophy. For those of you who don't know Chris was an Empire member for many years, who sadly passed away in 2017. His great passion was Interclub so it is always special when an Empire team wins this trophy.

Division Two ended up with Titan taking out the series beating Karori in the final. The Titan players - Harry Tam, Greg Kiel, Peter Jackson and with John law as a reserve are regular attendees on Monday nights so it was nice to see them triumph.

As to where Series 2 will go at this stage we can't be sure sorry. We will keep players posted.

Fundraising - Wine

Thanks to everyone who supported our **wine fundraiser**- expect a lot of this has now gone since we are in lockdown. The profit per complete box of 12 bottles sold was good at \$40.00, and everyone who purchased helped us out. Your support is very much appreciated and we made a profit of approximately \$550.00 which has gone to the building fund.

Your Board members have been purchasing **lotto tickets** this year - power dips every Saturday night - out of our own funds. Sadly we haven't collected anything significant as yet! All winnings up to a maximum of \$1.5m will go to building redevelopment fund. There has been work in the background on building related developments, but as you can appreciate we are living in difficult times for getting funding, and there are plans and consents too. Nothing is straight forward.

Perry's 90th Birthday

Also just before lockdown we had a happy event. We had a second Midweek member turn 90 - a great achievement and both Mary, now 91, on the left and Perry still play regularly. Also pictured is Chung who enables Perry to play - coming from Titahi Bay (and note she is not celebrating a birthday!).



Our 90 year olds Mary and Perry with Chung

That's all for now. Enjoy your table tennis and we hope you can support us wherever possible with helping out with session organising, fundraising and anything else - once we are playing again! Take care and look after yourselves...

Maggie Dyer
Membership and Communications

<http://www.empirett.org.nz/>