



# Empire Newsletter

April 2022

Hi all

The Covid Omicron environment has not necessarily made for an easy start to the year, although the club has been fairly lucky in the fact we have been able to play most of the time. Sadly Omicron did hit our Midweek daytime club, but hopefully all members have recovered now and are looking forward to playing again soon if they are not already back. We hope all members and families affected by Covid, are either through getting it or being forced to isolate are now on the mend.

## Junior Club 2022

An encouraging start to the year with new members joining some returning from last year. Not huge numbers but some keen players - we hope that numbers will grow as the season progresses. The Club will be open for the two weeks of the school holidays Fridays 22nd and 29th April. Senior members please encourage any juniors you know to come along.

## Subscriptions and Fees 2022

Thanks everyone who has paid their 2022 subs. **Subs are now overdue!** School children do not pay a subscription. Please pay in full next time you play or online. If you are on a "tighter" budget or simply prefer to manage finances carefully, we are accepting payment by instalments. Although a "rounded" amount is requested ie \$15.00 - \$20.00 a time.

A reminder of the rates - only a small increase over last year: \$80.00 adults \$50.00 concession (tertiary students, gold card and community service card holders)

Session fees for Monday and Midweek = \$6.00 for members and juniors, \$10.00 for casual The session organiser can ask anyone who has not paid a sub to pay \$10 now as it is after the 31st March. The session rate for Friday juniors remains at \$5.00, as does the Thursday night practice group and Sunday morning. All attendees can buy the multi card - \$50.00 for 10 sessions, although players must have paid a subscription to use them on Monday night and Midweek day sessions.

## TTNZ Veterans Tournament

Scheduled for Auckland, dates 15th to 18th April so will have been held by the time you read this. Not sure there were any local players going this year owing to uncertainties around Covid, but if you were there hope you had an enjoyable time.

## TTW Veterans Tournament

This was held on Saturday 2nd April with a small but keen turnout. The day seemed to go well from the players, spectators, tournament organisers and caterers point of view. Empire successes are as follows:

Over 40 singles: Winner - Heath Murdoch; runner-up - Ian Talbot

Over 40 plate: Winner - Darrell Brown

Over 40 doubles: Winners - Darrell Brown / Heath Murdoch; runners-up - Depak Patel / Daniel Rosner

Over 50 singles: Runner-up - Depak Patel

Over 50 plate: Winner = Zhidong Yu; runner-up - Martin Young

Over 50 doubles: Winners - Martin Young (/Lindsay Ward); runners-up - Heath Murdoch (/Sabine Westenra)

Over 60 singles: Winner - Zhidong Yu

Over 60 doubles: Winners - Bryan McConnochie (/Lindsay Ward); runner-up - Peter Bloor / Martin Young

Over 70 singles: Winner - Bryan McConnochie

Over 70 doubles: Runners-up - Averil Roberts / Wayne Upjohn

## Interclub Summer 2022

The final round robin and final matches for **Division 2** were held on Wednesday 6th April. The Knights team of Peter Bloor and Sheldon McLennan finished the round robin with identical points to the Cruisers team of AbilashSivasith and Lucas Yang. The Cruisers however had a much better night and took out the final match 3-1. It was a similar story for the AllStars team of Oscar Craig and Nik Zangouropoulos who finished in 5th place in the Round Robin ahead of the Newcomers team of Meena Change and Danny Eyre, but the latter beat them on finals night to take out 5th spot. The Diplomats team of Hayden Haughey and Harry Tam finished 7th in the round robin and managed to hold onto this place in the final!

**Division 1** final round was held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April. The Legends team of Heath Murdoch, Callum Rusbridge, Hayden Tapp and Sabine Westenra finished top of the round robin competition. In the final they played the Stalwarts team of Darrell Brown and Ian Talbot and while there were some tight 5 setter matches, the Legends came out clearly on top. The Stars team of Manish Ahlawat and Bryan McConnochie in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the round robin were beaten into 4<sup>th</sup> place by a Titan team, with Manish suffering his only loss of the competition in the final! The Cavaliers team of John Gan and Zhidong Yu beat the Contenders, Depak Patel and Michael Stechman in a fought out 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> place battle and confirmed their round robin place. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> places were confirmed in the final with Power Daniel Rosner and Om Thakur beating Solty Ham team of Scott Higham, Paul Solt and Martin Young. Finally the Pilgrims, Liam Johnstone and Michael Oganon overturned their bottom place by beating the Scholars Mohsen Kafi and Hamid Mahroeian in the final.

Sadly a lot of late nights were held in getting games finished in the competition, otherwise it was a successful event, also enjoyed by a few spectators.

## Coaching Update

Coaching on Mondays with Depak has had a good start so far and is free to members and new players. A reminder there will be four 15 minute times available, first in first served each night, with members having preference.

## Coming Up!TTW Autumn Open

Scheduled for **Saturday 30th April and Sunday 1st May** at Empire. Empire catering will be there for players and spectators – a reminder this is useful fundraising. Entries are open to all ages via the TTNZ Tournament Planner site <https://ttnz.tournamentsoftware.com/#TabUpcoming>.

## Winter Interclub

Entries will be open for this very soon. At present we are unsure whether there will be some or all 2-player teams this season. The competition is due to start on Tuesday 17th May and Wednesday 18th May.

*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/>*

Maggie Dyer

Membership and Communications