



Empire Newsletter

February 2021

Hi all

Happy New Year and welcome to the first newsletter of 2021. Let us hope for a better year than last year - certainly for table tennis and New Zealand. It is still hard for all of us with overseas friends and families watching what is happening in some countries.

Club Sessions

Everything is back operating as normal for Monday nights and Tuesday and Thursday Midweek mornings now. Sunday morning and Thursday nights are also proving popular - hopefully the trend will continue.

Subscriptions and Fees 2021

Thanks to the few of you who have already paid their 2021 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.

These are to be paid by 31st March 2021. We are going to tighten up on this requirement, as the last couple of years have been a bit of a nightmare in terms of getting subs from some people. If you have not paid by 31st March 2021, you are likely to be charged the non-member rate of \$8.00 per visit. Multi cards are a member privilege so if your sub is unpaid you will NOT be allowed to use a multi card until it is paid. Thank you for your co-operation.

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 there is another attempt to hold it in Christchurch, dates **2nd to 5th April**. TTW enter teams and will pay the entry fees for one grade per player. Anyone wanting to play in more than one grade, will need to pay those costs themselves.

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.

<https://ttnz.tournamentsoftware.com/tournament/9E68F7BF-02C9-4B87-9885-51A997B1925A>

Entries close Friday 26th February, which is not far away. If you interested it may pay to get in early as being Easter airfares will be potentially expensive and problematic, although accommodation pressure maybe less this year?

TTW Veterans Tournament

The first tournament of the year on the local calendar, will not require travel or accommodation! Keep **Saturday 13th 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 2021 (or a more mature one), you are eligible to play in the competition. Entries close Wednesday 10th March.

Everyone fortunate to have not reached 40 (or turning 40 in 2021), 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 contribution towards fundraising, and our eventual building redevelopment. As a bonus you should get to see some good games.

Interclub Summer 2021

For those of you keen to play more competitively, there will be a summer competition starting **Wednesday 17th March running for 6 weeks**. Teams will be 2 person with 2 matches per night. Teams do not necessarily have to be club based. Entries due soon, but interest can be registered at a club session or by return email. You can enter as a team or by yourself and we'll do our best to pair you up with someone suitable.

Fundraising - Chocolate

The **Chocolate fundraising** went quite well last year, although a lot was sold through the efforts of Board members. There are still a few bars left so it would be appreciated if these could be sold ASAP - they are still good to eat. Special thanks to Andrew who definitely takes out the honour of selling the most. **All profit goes to the building fund.**

Coaching Update

Coaching on Mondays with Depak will start **Monday 1st March**. There will be four 15 minute times available, first in first served each night, with members having preference. On occasions, a non member maybe able to get some coaching.

Tables!

There are 6 more Stag tables on their way - funded by a TTW grant. These will go in the "medium" hall, the Andros in the old hall and 4 of the 6 Donics belonging to TTW will be sold. These are to be offered by tender, owing to the fact there appears to be a reasonable interest in them. Tenders to start at \$400.00, and the message from TTW is that **a table may not go to the highest bidder**. Any bids sent by return email will be forwarded to TTW - due date 28th February.

AGM time!

Yes an annual happening - this year the AGM will be held on **Monday 22nd March**, 8.00 pm at the Club.

The three portfolios of **Buildings, Finance and Membership and Communications** are 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 still a vacancy for the **Services Convenors** - the workload of this position has been largely shared by Kevin and Maggie, but we would like to hand it on. These days it is not a very onerous position, involving agendas and minutes at the meetings, sorting out trophies and filing the few documents created and a few other little jobs. Letter writing is largely something from the past.

See the other attachment with this newsletter for further details.

Nominations for positions and also notification of any general business needs to be submitted by **Monday 15th March**.

Heath Murdoch - from the "Archives"

Going through Merv's table tennis legacy I found some old certificates. One was Heath winning A grade interclub in 1983!! I was very pleased to present this to Heath on a recent Thursday. He was delighted to accept the award 37 years later. For those wanting to know Heath likes to remind us all that he was not very old then!



Coming up

Details regarding our Friday night junior club opening - possibly the beginning of April and running through the school holidays this time, since the club will have just started.

All those events listed above, COVID and other circumstances permitting.

COVID Obligations and a Request

We would like to remind you that if you have travelled to areas and especially if you have been to places where people who have tested positive for COVID have been, please stay at home.

Although we do record attendance, we ask you if you have a suitable phone to use it and scan the QR tracer code on the "welcome" table (or at the front door). If your details have changed or if we don't have them please fill in a membership form. Note we have a good supply of sanitiser at the club and also some wipes.

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/>

Maggie Dyer
Membership and Communications