



Across the Table



8 December 2009

Newsletter of Table Tennis New Zealand

Issue 7

TTNZ'S SPARKLING 75th JUBILEE CELEBRATION

With a track record that includes the memorable 1995 New Zealand Championships and the even more demanding 2004 Oceania Championships, **Northland's** hospitality and organisational talents could be relied on to stage a great show for TTNZ's 75th Jubilee. And they delivered, big-time.

Held in Whangarei on 14 November, it was the second function this year to mark our 75th and Northland's laid-back, provincial touch contrasted noticeably with the more formal celebration held in conjunction with the Veterans Championships in Christchurch at Easter.

Everyone instantly warmed to Master of Ceremonies **James Morris's** jovial presentation style. He held the evening together with lashings of humour, passing the microphone to TTNZ Chairman **Ron Garrett** for the more formal segments. These included the presentation of TTNZ Special Awards; the election of new Life Members, the induction of six new people into the Hall of Fame and the launch of a 75th Jubilee Web-based Chronicle documenting TTNZ history from 1984 to 2008. Each of these is covered in a separate article.

The crowd numbered just under 100 and included at least seven former New Zealand Champions, a plethora of high-level officials past and present, and a wide representation of present-day and former players and supporters. It was a great mix, and a great atmosphere.

As the Jubilee dinner progressed James presented a nostalgic decade-by-decade summary of our first 75 years. **Alan Tomlinson** shared his memories and encyclopaedic knowledge in a guest speech detailing New Zealand's participation in early World Championships. It was an absorbing account and drew attention to lesser known events such as the 1963 Worlds in Prague where the "forgotten" women's team recorded New Zealand's best ever team performance, winning five matches out of eight.

Between speeches (and courses) everyone was scratching their heads over a set of "table tennis trivia" questions such as "Who was the first professional table tennis coach to visit New Zealand?" (Answer, Ken Stanley in 1952). James was at his sparkling best in front of the microphone when correcting the answers and marking the papers.

Old movie footage of **Russell Algie** and other early stars was shown, and the climax of the meal was the cutting of the 75th jubilee cake by former Executive Director **Merv Allardyce**. Merv qualified for the honour by being in the unique position of having attended all three TTNZ Jubilees (25th, 50th and 75th). His administrative and playing career is now into its seventh decade.

As the evening drew to a close well-earned praise for the organisational skills of the Northland team, led by **Brent Davies** and **James Morris**, was expressed. But the host Association had yet another surprise up its sleeve. They announced they were making an award of their own to two people who had served New Zealand Table Tennis to a degree they considered worthy of recognition beyond that of Life Membership – an honour both had already been accorded.

The awards took the form of handsome, spiral-shaped glass ornaments, suitably engraved on the base, and the recipients were **Ron Garrett** and **Robin Radford**.

ITTF Global Junior Circuit New Zealand Junior Open 2010

This International Championship is being held in Auckland in conjunction with other international events - all hosted by the Auckland Association.

Training Camp: 3-5 April
NZ Junior Open: 6-9 April
Youth Olympic Games Qualifying Tournament: 10-11 April
Oceania Championships: 12-18 April.

Entry Forms will be early next year.

Full details available to date are at:

http://www.tabletennis.org.nz/nz_junior_open_world_circuit.htm

New Zealand Open Veterans Championships 2010

These will be conducted by the North Harbour Association 1-5 April in their North Harbour Stadium.

Entry Forms will be available soon at

<http://www.tabletennis.org.nz/nationalevents.htm>

Ron was recognised for his willingness to fill the gap at the very top of our management structure on several occasions when the Chief Executive Officer position and/or the Board Chair became vacant. Robin's contribution included website maintenance, magazine publishing, membership registration and the web-based history chronicle.

It was well after 11.00 when James took up his ukulele, the words of Auld Lang Syne were projected onto a screen and the entire crowd linked arms and burst into song. It concluded an evening to remember.

John Kiley



TTNZ Annual General Meeting

Table Tennis Northland hosted the **TTNZ Annual General Meeting** on Saturday 14th November. A good turnout of delegates from most associations were treated to great Northland hospitality.

Workshops

The day began with two workshops - the first on tournament structures and the second on two areas of the Strategic Plan: High Performance and Development.

Tim Seaholme presented a structure for National and Association tournaments to give a) a better spread of events, b) shorter duration, c) high quality events. Since the last AGM Tim had received good feedback from associations and players (they are the ones we run events for). Views were presented and further feedback received from delegates which will enable progress to be made in 2010.

Shane Warbrooke (previous HP Director) gave an overview of 2009 High Performance events, achievements for the year, player development trips, high performance associations, comments from Emanuel Christiansson (ITTF Coach who ran the National Junior Training Camp) and his own views on the future.

Murray Finch (new HP Director) followed on from Shane with comments on internal talent development, coach-driven programmes, coach pathways, keeping talent in the game, association support, coach support, and player support. Communication and consultation with all will be a key. Delegates were split into groups and asked to discuss two questions on the delivery of an HP pathway and what critical issues the HP team should prioritise. Good constructive comments came from this.

John Stapleton presented ideas on development in associations, involvement of SPARC and Regional Sports Trusts, good strategic planning, how TTNZ can help, and the sharing of good programmes.

Reports on all these presentations will be sent to associations and anyone else who wants a copy.

The **AGM** was a relatively tame affair, with remits put forward on changes to the Constitution passed with only one gaining an amendment.

The election of Board members resulted in the return to the Board of **Alan Moore** and **Tim Seaholme**. **Bryan Keane** was elected for a further term after having served in 2001/2002. Congratulations to all three. Congratulations also to four new Life Members.

Jubilee Celebration

The **75th Jubilee Dinner and Hall of Fame Inductions** finished off a very good day and was enjoyed by all. Details of this event and the associated presentations are covered elsewhere.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank people who loaned memorabilia for display at the Dinner; **Robin Radford** and **John Kiley** for hours of work on a Chronicle of the last 25 years (launched at the dinner and now on our website), and the Northland team which organized the

function, led by **James** and **Christine Morris**, and **Brent** and **Doris Davies**.

At the TTNZ Board meeting on Sunday I indicated I would not be standing for Chair as 2010 will be the last year of my term on the Board. **Bryan Keane** and **Tim Seaholme** were duly nominated and elected Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively.

The Board would like to wish everyone involved in table tennis a Merry Christmas and look forward to meeting you all in 2010.

Ron Garrett

Outgoing Chairman TTNZ.



**TABLE TENNIS
NEW ZEALAND**
Life Member

Presented to

TTNZ Chairman *Ron Garrett*
1st November 2009

**New Life Members of Table
Tennis New Zealand
Elected**

The 2009 Annual General Meeting elected four new **Life Members**:

They were:

**Merv Allardyce
Shona Cudby
Bryan Keane
John Kiley**

The following TTNZ Awards of the Year were announced at the AGM/75th dinner celebrations:

Player of The Year: **Jenny Hung**
Junior: **Megan Stratford**
Junior Player: **Kevin Wu**
National Coach: **James Han**
Veteran Player: **Chris Little**
National Volunteer: **Alan Moore**
Most Improved Junior: **Dawn Ee**
National Official: **Daniel Fan**

A Chronicle of the History of Table Tennis New Zealand

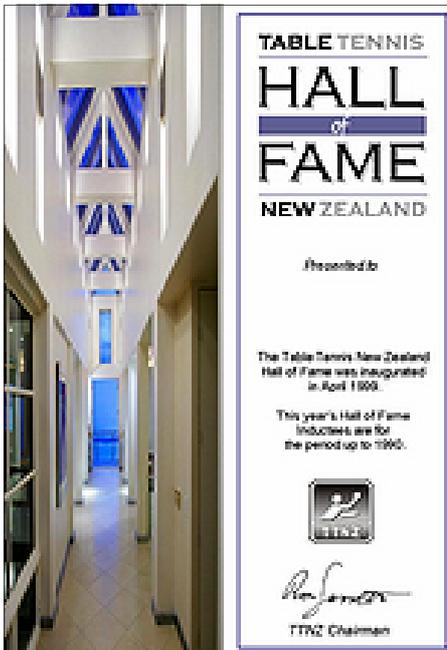
A new TTNZ web site has been launched:

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

The site chronicles year by year the table Tennis activities under the auspices of the national body - rankings, tours, national championships and other miscellaneous happenings.

Contributions of information to add to the history is welcome.

Currently it covers the last 25 years but plans are afoot to document the entire 75 years from 1934.



75th Jubilee How James Saw It

A big thank you to all those people who attended the Jubilee Celebrations in Whangarei - especially those who travelled from afar, as it certainly added to the evening. Many people have contacted Table Tennis Northland after the event and expressed their enjoyment in catching up with old friends and being part of the reunion including the inductees into the Hall of Fame, the new Life Members and the two special Northland Awards. It was nice to hear from people who told me that the evening was indeed special.

I had great pleasure in being involved and touching base personally with many past players, and much has been learnt about the past 75 years.

Alan Tomlinson's view on the 'Best NZ player performances' over the years was enlightening and brought back memories. The memorabilia that **Robin Radford** and **Ron Menchi** brought was much appreciated and of interest to all. The best part was hearing the hum of everyone engaged in earnest conversation during the night. That's what reunions are all about.

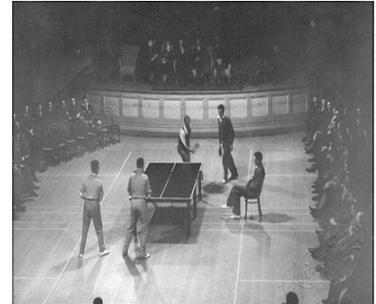
A big thank you to **Brent** and **Doris Davies** who did a sterling job on the DVD and the placemats which showed table tennis across the decades. There was silence and nobody wanted to go to dinner when the DVD began to play. And how many people found themselves on the placemats?

It was great to catch up as I'm sure all those attended will agree. Hope to see you all at the 100th!

James Morris

TTNZ 75th Anniversary

At the NZ Open Veterans Championships & Anniversary Dinner Canterbury Assn produced a nice table mat with some photos thereon. Several asked people what this one was all about.



Well - it was: **Fred Perry & F H Wilde** of England playing **Errol Cheal & Hec Pyle** (Wellington), during their exhibition tour of NZ, playing at the Wellington Town Hall against Wellington representatives in 1933.

(**Fred Perry** was World Table Tennis Champion in 1928 & 1929 and was also a World Champion in Tennis)

Six new members inducted into the Table Tennis Hall of Fame

The criteria was based on playing performances or achievements in either coaching or administration, up to 1990. The selection panel was **Ron Garrett**, **Alan Tomlinson** and **Ron Menchi** for the players, and **Ron Garrett** and **Alan Tomlinson** for the administrators.

The selected inductees were:

- Barry Griffiths
- Christine Little
- Alf Harding
- Ron Menchi
- Peter Jackson
- Jan Morris

The Hall of Fame booklet will be updated in the web site to show the new inductees achievements in due course.

Photo Archives

TTNZ web site has photo archives - access from: Galleries/Archives-Photos.

Feel free to peruse and advise us re missing info.

Can you help with photos?

Alan Moore and **Val Scarr** have been appointed by the ITTF as umpires for the XIX Commonwealth Games Table Tennis Competition in New Delhi in October 2010

Table Tennis New Zealand is proud to be sponsored by:

SPARC
New Zealand Community Trust
NZ Olympic Committee

The Southern Trust
Nittaku (clothing & uniform sponsor)

Lion Foundation
Stag (Ball Suppliers)

Produced by Robin Radford (with editing assistance from John Kiley) for:

TABLE TENNIS New Zealand Inc.

Phone (09) 521 4206 PO Box 133011 Eastridge Auckland 1146 E-mail - ttnz@tabletennis.org.nz

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

Newsletter: newsletter@tabletennis.org.nz

If you do not want to receive these newsletters email: newsletter@tabletennis.org.nz using the email address this was sent to.