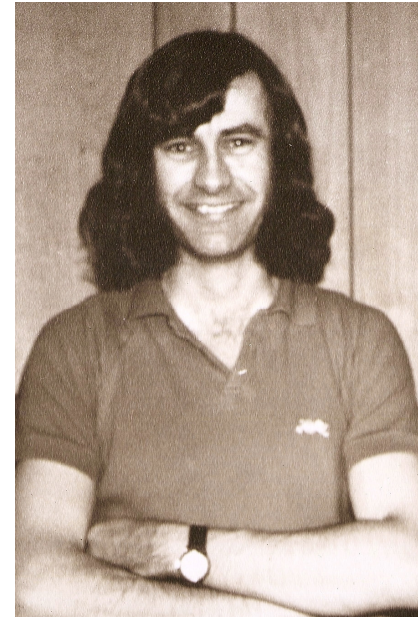


John Kiley

Joined Club:	1964
Membership Years:	1964-1999
Management Committee:	1966-1975, 1980-1988
Club Chairman	1980-1982
Other Contributions:	Asst Club Captain (1966-1971) Raffle Organiser (1967) Club Selector (1971, 1975) Newsletter Writer (1984-1988) 75th Jubilee Book Editor (2009)
Elected Life Member:	1984



John (1973) was well known for his long hair during the 1970's and early 1980's

As a player, John won a few club titles. He won the Men's Doubles in 1990 and the Second division Men's Singles in 1986. He also won the Handicap Singles in 1989.

He has been honoured by the club with life membership in 1984 but also was awarded the Dick Gray Cup for Best Club member on four occasions – 1967, 1973, 1975 and 1982.

John was involved in table tennis administration outside of Empire. The year after he moved to Lower Hutt he joined the Hutt Valley Table Tennis Association committee for the first of two short spells.

For nearly nine years, from 1993 until 2001, John worked as the administration officer for the New Zealand Table Tennis Association. His tenure spanned three separate eras: working under Executive Director Merv Allardyce (1993-1996); working under Merv's replacement Mike Brown (1997-1999); and working alone after the position of Executive Director was temporarily dispensed with due to financial constraints (1999-2001).

John has put his mark on Empire and table tennis in general. His archival work on the 1970 film and 2009 book will help future members appreciate the rich history behind Empire.



John Kiley's most recent contribution to the club was the very impressive 75th jubilee publication, "75 Years Old and Growing". The meticulous and well organised approach that produced this is typical of his time with Empire.

John got introduced to table tennis at a young age in Wanganui by playing on the kitchen table with Mum, Dad and brother. Soon after, the family were holidaying in Otaki and they played on a "real" table. This seemed huge after the kitchen table. He and his brother both took to the game and they joined a church club in Rotorua when the family moved there shortly after. He played for two years but then lost interest for a while.

At 15, he returned to the sport and began playing interclub in D grade at age 16. He worked his way up through the grades to B grade before his new career in the bank took him to Wanganui and then on to Lower Hutt. He made some enquiries and within 2 weeks of moving to Lower Hutt he was playing table tennis at Empire.

He got involved in administration at Empire because 'he was asked'. He says he was quiet initially and a bit overawed by characters such as Alf Harding, Ron Menchi and Ray Giles. He gained confidence when he was asked to organise the raffle. This was his first effort at leading a club activity.

Later on he helped organise discos for Junior Club. He was the DJ. He says that that the discos were the kids' idea and he was just the facilitator but his interest in music probably helped encourage them.

John also had interest in writing and film making. As an amateur he produced a short film about the building of the "new" hall at Empire in 1969-1970. Fortunately, a copy of this film has survived to the current day. John had a 14 year film career between 1974 and 1991. He started as an editor but then went on to write and direct. His work was mainly in education but he did lots of everything, including TV ads.

As a natural organiser, John found enjoyment as an administrator from the secretarial work and organising tournaments with Ron Menchi. They organised tournaments such as the Anzac Day Tournament. Initially this was a handicap competition but eventually it became a three life knockout.