



## Empire Spin

November 2009

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### Members Honoured at 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Dinner

Four Empire members were honoured at the TTNZ 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Dinner in Whangarei on November 14. John Kiley and Merv Allardyce were awarded life membership and Ron Menchi and Alf Harding were inducted into the TTNZ Hall of Fame. Ron, John and Merv were present to receive their honours and Alf was represented by his daughter Lynne Heyden who travelled from Queensland for the event. Lynne also travelled from Queensland to Wellington for the Empire Jubilee Dinner in September. Members of Empire may be surprised to hear that these four Empire Life Members have also contributed a huge amount to Table Tennis NZ in addition to their work for Empire.

Ron Menchi was inducted into the Hall of Fame as an administrator. He joined the executive committee in 1965. He became deputy chairman of TTNZ in 1972, then was chairman from 1982 to 1993. He continued to serve on the management committee until 1996 and the technical committee until 2000.



**Ron Menchi**

Alf Harding was also inducted as an administrator. Alf served 25 years on the executive committee between 1957 and 1982, the last 12 as chairman. He was also involved in running two national championships in Wellington during that time. As a journalist, Alf helped bring table tennis to the attention of the public. He often acted as NZ team manager and reported on events at the same time. Alf was also involved with Hutt Valley Table Tennis for 16 years and was an administrator at Empire for 48 years.



**Alf Harding**

Also inducted into the hall of fame were top players Barry Griffiths, Peter Jackson, Christine Little and Jan Morris.

## Volunteers & Officials

### **TTNZ Life Members**

Merv Allardyce and John Kiley were made life members of Table Tennis New Zealand at the Jubilee Dinner in Whangarei on November 14.

Merv and John were the head office team for TTNZ in the 1990's. Merv was the Executive Director of TTNZ from 1985 until 1996. John was the administration officer from 1993 until 2001. During the final two years John was the sole paid administrator for TTNZ. Both put in much more time and effort than the nominal 9-5 working day. John continues to work with TTNZ, helping to compile archival material that will soon be available on the TTNZ website ([www.tabletennis.org.nz](http://www.tabletennis.org.nz)).

Merv was the only person in attendance that had attended the 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> jubilee dinners. Fittingly, he was invited to cut the jubilee cake.



**Merv Allardyce**



**John Kiley**

Other administrators made life members of TTNZ were Shona Cudby (Manawatu) and Brian Keane (Nelson).

### **Midweek Organisers**

Melanie Armstrong and Arthur Lee have agreed to take over from Eddie Moore as the Tuesday midweek organisers.

Thanks to Melanie and Arthur for taking on this important role and many thanks to Eddie for his many years of service to the midweek club.

### **Survey and Planning**

Thirty nine people completed our recent end of season survey. This feedback is being used in our planning for 2010.

The winner of the \$30 multi-session ticket was George Stoupe, one of our promising junior players.

Club planning sessions are open to all members. Like all administrative tasks, the more that help, the better and easier it is for all. The first session was held on November 12. A follow up session is being held on Thursday December 3 from 7pm at the stadium. We welcome new participants and supper will be provided.

## 2009 Calendar



### Club Sessions

Monday Evening from 6:30pm  
Closing December 14  
Reopening February 1

Tuesday Morning 9:30am-11:30am  
Thursday Morning 9:30am-11:30am  
Closing December 17  
Reopening January 12

Friday Juniors from 6:30pm  
Closing November 27  
Reopening March/April 2010

Sunday Morning 9:30am-11:30am  
Closing December 13  
Reopening January 31  
During January contact Min Su 577 1669.

Unofficial sessions may operate before the official start date. See website for more updates.

### Club Competitions

#### Monday Club

Grading nights on first Monday of the month. The last one for 2009 is December 7.

#### Interclub

Table tennis Wellington is currently running a composite interclub competition. This concludes on Wednesday, December 9.

## Jubilee

About sixty people came and enjoyed our jubilee weekend in September. Whilst the numbers were disappointing, those who attended enjoyed the events.

We unveiled profiles of our life members at the mix and mingle event on Friday night.

We 'enjoyed' seeing Robert Macartney wearing one of the old club tracksuits at the Saturday tournament.

On Saturday night we were treated to an interesting talk from Peter Horne and some delicious jubilee cake.



About sixty people attended our open day on the Sunday in spite of parking being very difficult with thousands of runners and walkers going past.

The last jubilee event is the burial of the time capsule. This will be closed at the end of the month. To encourage more participation, the charge for lodging a letter is now just a voluntary donation.

Photos from the jubilee events will soon be available on the website.

### Jubilee Merchandise

We still have items available for sale. Ask at the shop.

Books	\$30
Shirts	\$35
Beer Glasses	\$15 each 4 for \$50
Wine Glasses	\$18 each 4 for \$60

## Competition Results

### Winter Interclub

Empire Storm did very well to make the Premier 1 final but sadly was not able to defeat the Waterloo Wizards in the final.

#### Premier 1

- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Empire Storm – Ian Talbot, Depak Patel, Chris Talbot
- 5<sup>th</sup>: Empire Typhoons – Raewyn Young, John Gan, Jason Giles
- 6<sup>th</sup>: Empire Tempest – Paul Solt, Graeme Jackson, Tony Rutledge, Felix Sternagel, Brendon Nelson
- 7<sup>th</sup>: Empire Whirlwinds – Martin Young, Malcolm Wong, John Nguyen

#### Premier 2

- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Empire Hurricanes – Bruce Connolly, Chris Williams, Uy Tang
- 6<sup>th</sup>: Empire Cyclones – Norman Chan, Russell Buchanan, Jim Pandelidis

#### Premier 3 Competition 2

- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Empire Tornado – Mike Aldred, Hayden Kirkbeck, Graham Sole
- 5<sup>th</sup>: Empire Tsunami – Chris Palmer, Craig Bailey, Tristian Alay-ay
- 6<sup>th</sup>: Empire Trojans – Kai Xu, Justin Cho, Lesley Xie
- 7<sup>th</sup>: Empire Gales – Maggie Dyer, Margaret Connolly, Margaret Cloughley
- 8<sup>th</sup>: Empire Thunder – John Kane, Dawn Dorresteyn, Stefan Vrecic

#### B Grade Competition 2

- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Empire Crusaders: Hayden Brown, Stephen Hope, Rush Bhatt, Stephen Benfell



**Team of the Year (Allardyce Family Trophy) - Empire Storm with Diane and Merv Allardyce**

### 2009 Prizegiving

Club prizes were awarded at the club dinner on November 7

#### Club Championships

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Handicap Singles   | Rush Bhatt                 |
| Division 2 Doubles | Jason Giles<br>Diane Hope  |
| Division 2 Singles | Martin Young               |
| Open Doubles       | Chris Talbot<br>Ian Talbot |
| Open Singles       | Depak Patel                |

#### Interclub Awards

- Best Interclub Record (Male)  
Bruce Connolly
- Best Interclub Record (Female)  
Raewyn Young
- 50 Interclub Appearances  
John Gan  
Norman Chan
- 100 Interclub Appearances  
Margaret Cloughley  
Uy Tang
- 250 Interclub Appearances  
Chris Williams

#### Special Trophies

- Best Sportsperson  
Mary Law
- Most Improved Player  
Hayden Kirkbeck
- Best Club Member  
Diane and Stephen Hope
- Most Outstanding Performance  
Eddie Moore
- Team of the Year  
Empire Storm – Ian Talbot, Depak Patel, Chris Talbot

Congratulations to all winners, runners up and nominees. See you again next year.