

Ken Wilkinson, BEM



1975

Ken Wilkinson stands out as one of New Zealand's most able, versatile and long-serving table tennis administrators. He was also highly respected internationally.

Ken was first appointed Secretary of the New Zealand Table Tennis Association in 1949, having been involved with administration in the Wellington Association since 1937. This was originally an honorary position but in 1978 he became a salaried officer. He was paid for 20 hours a week (doing 40-plus hours work).

He served as Secretary for 36 years until his retirement in 1985 by which time the position had been re-designated as Executive Director.

Ken was manager of the New Zealand team to the World Championships in Beijing, China in 1961 and of the team that toured Scotland and England and competed in the World Championships in Stockholm, Sweden in 1967. In 1972 he managed a NZ team at the Asian Championships in Indonesia. Ken was also associated with many overseas teams visiting New Zealand.

He made a total of 45 overseas trips on table tennis business.

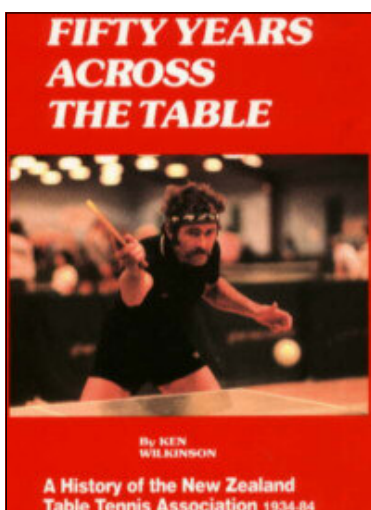
With Keith Bowler (Australia) he was responsible for forming the Oceania Table Tennis Federation, serving as President from 1978 to 1993.

Ken also served on the ITTF as one of six Vice Presidents and as a member of the ITTF Council. Over the years he formed an excellent rapport with officials from many diverse nations. His ITTF involvement covered 18 years from 1967.



1950

In 1975 he was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the Queen's New Year Honours list for services to sport, particularly table tennis. He was made a Life member of TTNZ in 1976 and of Oceania in 1990.



In 1984 he finished writing "Fifty Years Across the Table", a 153 page hardback book commemorating the Golden Jubilee of the NZ Association.

Ken passed away on 26 May 1997 aged 80.

(right): At one of his many International meetings. 1972

