

Alan Tomlinson



Alan had to some degree played in the shadow of Bob Jackson, but he toppled the latter in 1959 to win the New Zealand men's singles title. He then demonstrated his staying power in top NZ table tennis by taking the title 5 years later, 5 years later again, and 3 years later again in 1972. He also collected a formidable array of national doubles titles.

During the Japanese tour in 1957 he defeated Ichiro Ogimura (World Number 2) and in a long career won 5 singles titles in various championships in the British Isles, including the Scottish Open.

An astute tactician, he was known as a player with a powerful loop drive, a variety of spin services and solidly hit counter-drives.

Alan travelled extensively, with trips to the World Championships in China in 1961, England and Czechoslovakia in 1962/3 and England in 1967 where he had some fine wins against highly ranked players. He attended the first Commonwealth Championships in Singapore in 1971, travelling on to yet another World Championships in Japan the same year.

He featured in the 1978 NZ edition of the Guinness Book of Records as the player with the most international appearances representing this country (54 times). He was NZ Player of the Year three times (1959, 1966 and 1967)

A popular player and keen supporter of district association championships, he continued to play in Veteran events long after his peak years, adding further titles to his impressive list.

This outstanding New Zealand player has also served the game in various facets of administration. He has written newspaper articles, edited magazines, and served for a time as a North Island selector.

Always willing to assist table tennis when called upon, Alan was a member of the selection panel for the 2005 inductions to this Hall of Fame.

National Titles:

New Zealand Open

Men's Singles - 1959, 64, 69, 72
Men's Doubles - 1955, 56, 57, 58, 59, 62, 68, 69, 70, 71
Mixed Doubles - 1969
Over 45 Men's Singles - 1982, 83
Over 45 Men's Doubles - 1996
Over 45 Mixed Doubles - 1986, 88
Over 55 Men's Singles - 1995, 96
Over 70 Men's Singles - 2005
Over 70 Men's Doubles - 2005



Alan Tomlinson continued

North Island Open

Men's Singles - 1959, 61, 63, 64, 72
Men's Doubles - 1955, 56, 57, 58, 65, 68, 69, 70, 76, 79
Mixed Doubles - 1956, 58, 61, 63, 68, 69, 70, 74, 78
Over 35 Men's Singles - 1989
Over 45 Men's Singles - 1984, 86, 87
Over 45 Men's Doubles - 1988
Over 45 Mixed Doubles - 1989
Over 60 Men's Singles - 1995, 98

New Zealand Veteran Championships

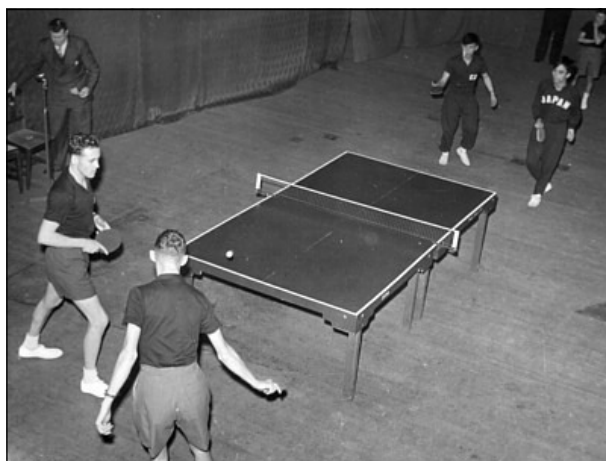
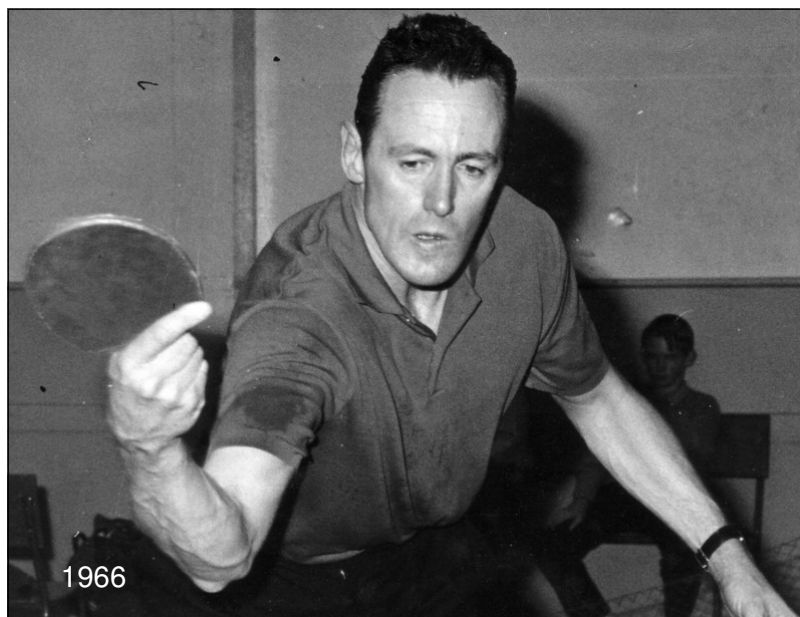
Over 40 Men's Singles - 1987
Over 40 Men's Doubles - 1988, 96
Over 40 Mixed Doubles - 1988
Over 50 Men's Singles - 1987, 88
Over 50 Men's Doubles - 1988, 96
Over 50 Mixed Doubles - 1988

(right): **Alan**
showing his
trademark follow-
through at the NZ
Open in 2004.



In April 2020 the Swaythling Club Magazine published by the ITTF published an article on Alan's experiences in UK and his comments on the introduction of sponge to the game.

With the permission of the publishers the article can be seen here (copy & paste):
http://www.tnzarchives.org.nz/hall_of_fame/a_tomlinson_swaythling_article.pdf



Walking Encyclopaedia

Over several decades Alan has participated with considerable success in radio and television quiz programmes. His general knowledge is phenomenal and he has carried off an array of well-deserved prizes.

(Left) **Alan Tomlinson (L) & Garry Frew** playing **Tanaka & Ogimura** (World Champions), in Whangarei 1957.