

Richard Lee



Starting his table tennis career in Hamilton, Richard showed considerable promise at a very early age but still surprised the table tennis world when he won the North Island Open as a 15 year-old in 1970. While still only 15 he competed before large crowds against touring Swedish exhibitionists Kjell Johansson and Hans Alser (World doubles champions). He was named in the New Zealand Men's team to compete in the Commonwealth and World Championships before he turned 16.

At the Commonwealths in 1971, 16 year-old Richard led his team to a 5-3 victory over Australia in the very first match, his unbeaten run including a win over the highly-regarded Paul Pinkewich. Richard produced many fine performances for New Zealand, in particular proving a regular thorn in the

Australian side.

For a number of years he was clearly New Zealand's leading player and in one memorable year (1974) he defeated every other top NZ player - winning every tournament he contested.

An agile and ultra-fit left-hander with a lethal loop drive, Richard represented NZ at the 1972 and 1974 Asian Championships, the 1971, 1975, 1977, 1979 and 1981 World Championships and the 1971, 1975 and 1977 Commonwealth Championships. He was the first player to play in 100 contests for NZ - 104 in total. He was New Zealand Player of the Year in 1970, 1974 and 1977.

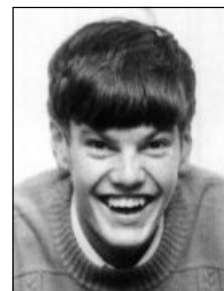
For a three month period in 1978 Richard turned to coaching and conducted regional schools in the Canterbury area. They proved a great success but Richard was not ready to give up top level play at that stage. A lengthy career in coaching began in earnest after he retired from regular play in 1984. He then devoted numerous hours to coaching at association, regional and national level and was appointed coach and manager of many junior teams. He is still an active coach at the date of his induction to the Hall of Fame in 2005.

Richard is regarded as one of the finest analysts of the game and has written numerous articles for newspapers and National Championship programmes.

National Titles:

New Zealand Open

Men's Singles - 1971, 73, 74
Men's Doubles - 1973, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81
Mixed Doubles - 1971, 74, 79
Under 18 Boys' Singles - 1969, 70, 71, 72
Under 18 Boys' Doubles - 1969, 70, 71, 72
Under 18 Mixed Doubles - 1971
Under 16 Boys' Singles - 1969, 70
Under 16 Boys' Doubles - 1969, 70



1971

Richard Lee continued

North Island Open

Men's Singles - 1970, 74, 80
Men's Doubles - 1970, 71, 73, 74, 75, 77, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 89
Mixed Doubles - 1981
Under 18 Boys' Singles - 1970, 71, 72
Under 18 Boys' Doubles - 1971
Under 18 Mixed Doubles - 1970, 71
Under 16 Boys' Singles - 1969, 70
Under 16 Boys' Doubles - 1969, 70
Under 16 Mixed Doubles - 1969

South Island Open

Men's Singles - 1974, 78, 82
Men's Doubles - 1973, 82, 86
Mixed Doubles - 1986
Under 16 Boys' Doubles - 1969



1974



**Presentation Flint & Ward Memorial Trophy
National Coaching School 1969**

**L/R: Keith Fraser, Richard Lee,
J G Allan (Mayor Cambridge).**