

Hello Everyone

Another year has passed, and the basketball calendar seems to get ever more busy. It also gets more varied in the forms of game played.

Our traditional full squads of Tall Ferns, Tall Blacks and multiple age groups have travelled widely overseas this year, giving our players experience that was only dreamed of just ten years ago. We must not overlook that this also gives experience to our coaches and referees who, likewise, are travelling widely.

We now see teams travelling overseas to play the 3 x 3 format and performing very well.

But who has noticed the more recent form of our game where the eBlacks won the eFIBA World Finals in Sweden for their first ever World Finals win. A 17-year-old player named “**Flumeto**” (real name Jaxon Sutton) from Hamilton scored a world record 50 points in the final to become “an International player to watch”.

A slow, but continuing process has resulted in presentation of another **First Star Award**, this one to Lucy Milne on behalf of Geoff Milne who was a member of the first Tall Blacks team. (More detail on page 5.)

In conclusion, I wish all our readers a Very Happy Christmas, and best wishes for a successful 2024.

Hilary Carr 



Basketballers Growing Old Gracefully

Rodney King

No wonder basketball is such a great sport. For proof of this, make sure you attend the National Secondary Schools’ Finals next year. You won’t only find exceptional talent, but you’ll find many faces familiar from years ago.

I had the privilege of spending a short two days at the Palmerston North tournament at the end of September. It was an eye opener. I had never been to a tournament where the stadium used “only” nine of the 10 courts available. How much excitement can you fit into one venue!

I don’t recall players having grandparents, or even many parents, come to chat and cheer fifty years ago. As a referee it was eventually fun finding myself refereeing the children of players I had refereed. I managed to “hang up my whistle” before their grandchildren suited up on court.

The size and speed of the modern 16-17-year olds is a sight to behold. I don’t just mean the boys, the girls share these traits. The grandparents come along, of course in support. Their sons and daughters coach now.

Among those I noticed were some from the 1980s, even before. A small sample of those I saw: Gail and Gareth Rapon were top of the sport then. Now they support Brook and his playing children. Graeme and Linda Morris also fronted up to see Michael coach his son. As a more recent player, Phil Jones was busy as coach of his son’s team. Then Angelo Hill was seen coaching the Opunake girls team. From Napier the Daly family turned up en masse – Kirsten and Aiden to coach, Donnette and Craig to support – and even work the score benches.

Willie Bryant refereed back in the 80’s + 90’s

... .. *continued*

and more. Now he gives significant valuable support to the organisation of Sports Chaplains, as well as helping Ken Coulson as part of the referee mentor team.

There were many other old acquaintances, the best part is we keep coming back – our sport is riding a huge, successful wave.



Myra Davey

12 Dec 1933 – 26 Oct 2023

Myra Davey was a player from Masterton – a powerhouse home of the game in the 1950s and 1960s. Basil Marsh wrote that she first represented Wairarapa in 1953.

Myra's pinnacle was playing for the NZ Tall Ferns in 1957. In her book "Let's Go Girls", Glenda Taylor records that Myra was "a skilful and determined guard" and "a stalwart of the strong Wairarapa team in the 1950s". She was also one of a group of players who were assigned to other roles such as coaches or selectors at provincial level for Inter-Island games.

The Foundation extends its condolences to the Davey family.



Thelma Mary Turner *née* Trask

A sad feature of an Archival newsletter is to note the passing of former basketballers. We now record the passing of Thelma Turner on 26 September 2023, aged 94, in Palmerston North. Thelma was born in Hawera, but all her schooling, sport, and growing a family were in Palmerston North.

Glenda Taylor, in her book "Let's Go Girls" recorded that she was a diminutive player being only 5'1", but she held her own admirably. As Thelma Trask, she played for Palmerston North, winning national titles in 1946, 1948, and 1949. She also played for NZ Tall Ferns from 1950-51 + 1953-55 and was team captain in 1955.

Fun fact: those were the days when women played with six players on court, were only allowed one bounce of the ball to advance up court and played 4 x 8-minute spells with two-minute breaks at quarters and three minutes half time.

Thelma also achieved highly in netball when she was selected for the (now called) Silver Ferns to play against Australia Diamonds in 1948. Although the series comprised three games many players only played once as selection was regionally based due to cost. She was also proficient at squash, aerobics, aqua aerobics, swimming, aqua jogging and represented Manawatu in tennis.

The Foundation extends its condolences to the Turner family.

The Fun Pictures Section

A different “team” this time. Here is a group which I presume is a gathering of BBNZ Life Members. The photo comes from a newspaper so is not the best reproduction. How many can you name?



Correction: This photo was printed in the last newsletter. It was labelled as **John Wooden** with Khalid Ismail. Thank you to Alan Dryburgh who recognised the player was **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar**. The first photo was 1969 and the second in 2007.

John Wooden died on 4 June 2010, just four months before his 100th birthday.



Colleen McFarlin

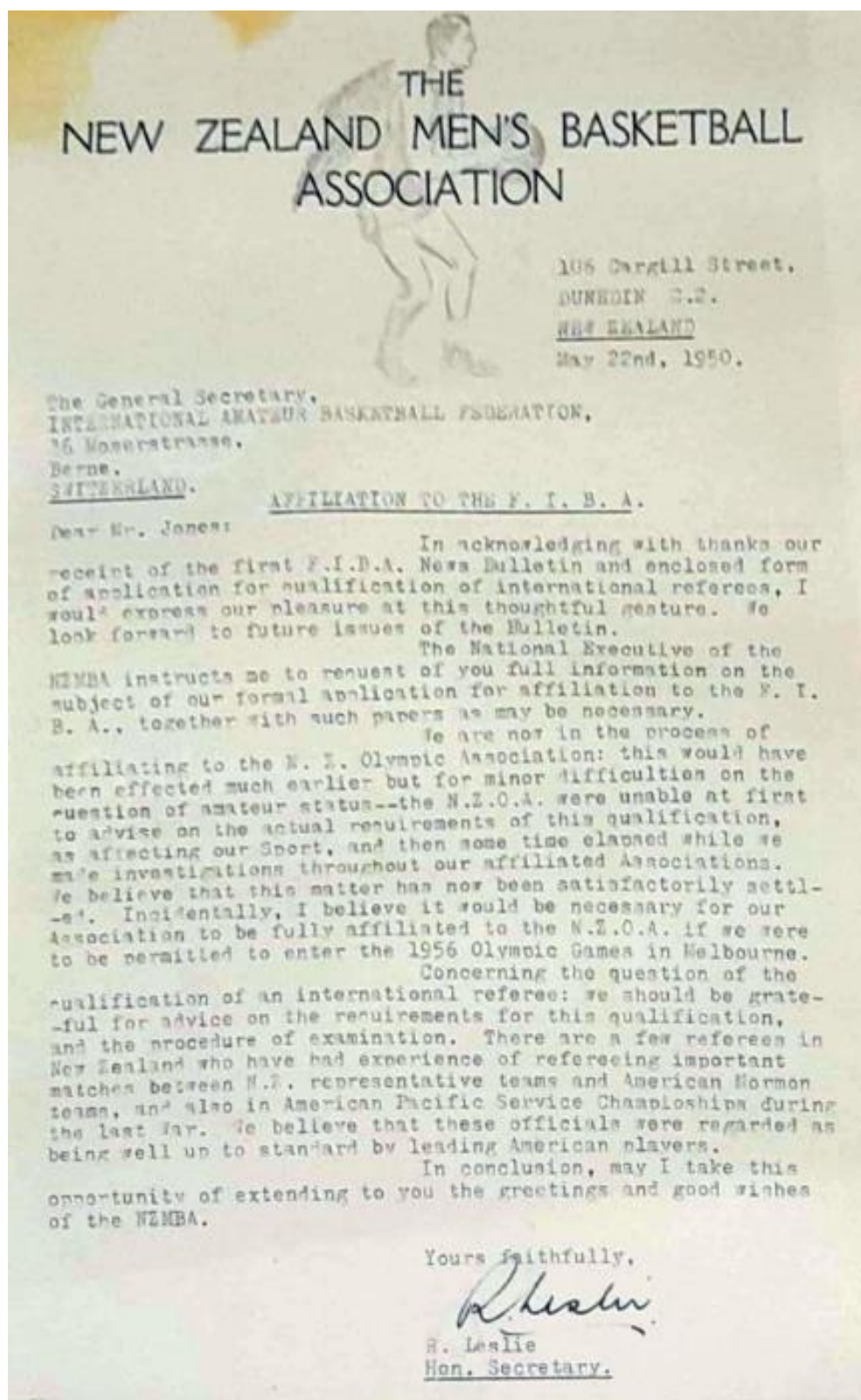
We are saddened to also note the passing of Colleen McFarlin on 20 November 2023. Colleen began her basketball career in Hawera, later moving to Palmerston North and then to Christchurch.

Colleen was a player in the Tall Ferns for one year in 1974, when the team attended the 1st Oceania Championship which coincided with playing in the State Championships in Sydney.

The Foundation extends its condolences to Tony McFarlin and their family.

A Valuable Piece of Our History

Hilary came across this gem in the Archives recently. Seventy-three years ago, the Hon. Secretary of the NZMBA wrote asking how New Zealand should go about affiliating to FIBA.



From the Fun Pictures Page

As with so many photographs, this one does not have a date. At least it did have the names. Can anyone tell us what/when this occasion was?

Left-Right: Basil Marsh, Cedric Cudby, John Grocott, Barry Wilson, Peter Crowhen, Maurie Henshall, David Rout, Peter Christian.

First Stars Awards

These Awards were introduced by BBNZ to recognise the members of the first Tall Blacks and Tall Ferns teams. Most of those former players have passed on, but the Awards are being presented to family members, where they can be traced.

To date seven of the men and five women have had their Awards presented. If you know of family members for the following, please send an email to the Foundation at foundation@nz.basketball :

Men

Len Larsen
Blake Remmers
Mike Wilson

Women

Phyliss Abernethy
Violet Farrell
Betty Newey
M Watkins
Jane Rewcastle

And in overseas news:

<p>Bob Knight</p> <hr/> <p>coach b October 25, 1940 d November 1, 2023</p>	
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