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CHAMPION PAIR HELPED SPARK POLICY CHANGE continued...

the companionship and the pleasant drinking environment...

"Keith soon introduced me to such well-known characters as Waikato rugby representative, Johnny O'Hearn, and the Cameron brothers, Colin and Jock, who were also connected with various sports."

"I soon became involved in indoor bowls. Frank Haines was the section president and guiding hand. We played on a raised mat in the snooker area. Because there was only one mat, the tournaments, championships etc went on and on."

Both Matt and wife Ola excelled at indoor bowls. Titles and recognition in and outside of the Waikato soon came their way.

Their indoor bowls CV is a highly impressive document.

Matt went on to gain representative honours for Waikato and NZ Maori. He has achieved his NZ chartered club (central area) gold star with five titles. He has won 10 Waikato titles and skipped ('my best result') the winning four at the New Zealand championships in Wanganui in 1968. Ola was also in that four. In 1971 Matt and Ola won the Bob Malcolm Trophy for the married couple having most success in the national pairs.

Matt considers being runner up in the NZ singles as another favourite sporting memory.

His work on behalf of indoor bowls with the Central club in Hamilton has ensured that club has survived more than 50 years.

While indoor bowls naturally has taken up most of his leisure time, Matt has also been involved in snooker, outdoor bowls and cards and has represented the HWMC at snooker as well as indoor bowls.

He lists his favourite sports as indoor bowls, cricket, tennis and rugby.

His most admired sportspersons are Colin Meads and Rob Waddell because "they were the best at their chosen sports."

The affable Matt has several interesting stories to tell regarding trotting and racing. He relates, with a great deal of pleasure, several visits, both near and far, to New Zealand trotting and racing meetings. "Claudelands trots had special appeal. It was a shame they had to go."

Watercress and brisket and any roast meal go down well with Matt.

'DB' and diet Coke and water are drinks he enjoys while his favourite colour is red.

He gets great pleasure out of viewing 'Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?' on the television and listening to the voices and songs of Dean Martin and Howard Morrison.

Aspects of club life which appeal to Matt include participation in club events, the companionship and meeting people.

He is very positive about aspects within the club. "In my view the club executive, manager, staff and dining room are right up with the play. The future certainly looks good."

A GALLERY OF BOWLING CHAMPIONS

