



ITTF Museum Exhibits in Bremen

The ITTF Museum staged its annual exhibit at both the World Team Championships and World Veterans Championships in Bremen during April and May. The exhibits attracted nearly 18,000 visitors, many of whom wrote very favorable comments in my guestbook near the exit. One visitor was so thrilled with what he saw that he wrote: "Better than sex!" Perhaps a good slogan for the Museum?

The exhibit was divided into three main themes: ITTF/Sport History, Technical/Evolution, and Culture. Four computer Table Tennis games were available, featuring the game from the ITTF homepage. During the World Teams the computers were always occupied, but in striking contrast they went ignored during the World Veterans!



One of the most popular exhibits was the Walk through Time, an illustrated chronological timeline history of Table Tennis, featuring photos of all World and Olympic singles Champions, as well as the names of all Swaythling Cup, Corbillon Cup winning teams, and all World and Olympic Doubles Champions.

The 16-meter timeline is printed on colorful textile panels, each measuring 2.4 meters by 1.3 meters and attached to the walls, augmented by a series of display cases positioned in front, showing programs, medals, photos, bats, stamps and postmarks, and other items corresponding to the timeline era.

Above and below: The always popular Walk through Time exhibit, an illustrated timeline history of Table Tennis, attracted large crowds of fans admiring their champions



A mini-theater also attracted large crowds, who visibly enjoyed the vintage films of great stars dating back to the 1920s. The Table Tennis Legends video is now available in DVD format, from www.ping-pong.com



Shigeo Ito (JPN) 1969



Toshiko Kowada (JPN) 1969

Visiting World Champions

Several World Champions visited the museum exhibit, and they were kind enough to pose for a photograph of them pointing to their pictures on the Timeline exhibit. I also received the promise of an important bat from their careers.

Legendary Jan-Ove Waldner donated the bat he used in Bremen, his last World Championship, and from DONIC came the shirt Waldner wore in the Paris 2003 World Championships, and a bat that Persson used in World Teams in Kuala Lumpur 2000.

One of the goals at the ITTF Museum is to create a Hall of Champions, featuring bats from each World Champion.



Dragutin Surbek (JUG) 1979, 1983 Doubles



Stellan Bengtsson (SWE) 1971

Celebrity Photo Gallery

Another popular exhibit was the Guess Who? Celebrity Photo Gallery (below), with 40 photos of celebrities playing Table Tennis. A Golden Oldies section included legendary movie stars and comedians, such as Charlie Chaplin, Jimmy Stewart, Marilyn Monroe, Humphrey Bogart, Judy Garland, et al. More recent stars in the Gallery were Sean Connery, Elizabeth Taylor and Luciano Pavarotti. Visitors had fun trying to guess the names of all those celebrities, and were often observed pointing to the photos, a measure I use to judge the success of a particular exhibit. The ITTF Museum is always interested in expanding this special collection - contact the Curator if you can help!

