

# Ronnie Rowan honoured for her 17 years

**FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY** of the IBF Veronica (Ronnie) Rowan received a formal presentation from the President Mme. Lu Shengrong during the World Championships at Lausanne.

She was also honoured at a dinner organised by Honorary Life Vice-President Herman Valken.

Past President Arthur Jones gave the address of thanks in the Malley Sports Centre before the players for whom Mrs. Rowan had worked so hard.

R o n n i e  
R o w a n  
succeeded the  
late Herbert  
Scheele in  
1976 after his  
40 years of  
service to the  
IBF.

Mr. Jones said, "The necessary re-organisation followed Herbert Scheele's

retirement. Ronnie Rowan as a young lady became the General Secretary and worked from her Cheltenham home."

Mr. Jones traced the history of the development of badminton through Mrs. Rowan's 17 years as General Secretary, at the start of which the IBF had a mere 55

members. That number had doubled by her retirement.

"The early years were occupied with the establishment of a unified game, the revitalising of the Thomas and Uber Cups, an expansion of the World Championships and the

establishment of the fabulous Sudirman Cup," said Mr. Jones.

"The World Grand Prix circuit was started and in 1992 Badminton became a programme sport in the Barcelona Olympic Games. Today, Badminton is a financially independent and

respected world sport," he added.

Mr. Jones concluded, "Ronnie Rowan, you were at the front of all these developments and to mark your devoted service I ask our President Madame Lu to present you with this piece of Royal Copenhagen porcelain."



*Ronnie Rowan*

# Ronnie Rowan leaves IBF after 17 years

Assistant Director Veronica ("Ronnie") Rowan has left after more than 17 years' outstanding service to the International Badminton Federation. Ronnie resigned from the IBF in November after having played an important role in the transformation of the sport.

When Mrs Rowan began a stint of sixteen and a half years as IBF General

Secretary she used part of a room in her house in Cheltenham as her base, and the association had little more than 50 affiliated nations. Now it possesses offices in two properties and has more than 120 nations, whilst badminton has become an Olympic sport and enjoyed considerable financial development in certain parts of the world.

Ronnie also worked through crucial changes which included the reunification of badminton with the merger of the IBF and the WBF, the revised format and combining of the Thomas and Uber Cups ("I think that has helped to save the women's game", she says), and an increased number of tournaments around the globe. She has travelled to and become well known in a very large number of countries. Often at major events she would work through the night to have papers ready for the following day's meetings.

Ronnie became Assistant Director in December last year after the appointment of David Shaw as the IBF's first Executive Director. "I would like to feel that the game will take some notice of the smaller countries," she said. "That's important for the game's future."



*Ronnie Rowan*