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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Can I make a simple plea, once again, for club's and centres, at this early part of the season, to keep trying every idea in an effort to try and stop our declining membership. The National Executive are very supportive of the appointment of Craig Whiteside in his new position to help districts to introduce and encourage more people to our sport. Many centre's have already expressed a desire to have Craig visit them, more would be welcome, as he attempts to create a workable and affordable programme. No doubt many of our keen bowlers will have been getting some early season practice in with obvious plans to have your entries in early for the 65th National championships to be played at the impressive Pettigrew-Green Arena at Taradale, in Hawkes Bay. For a number of those competing at these Nationals you would have not been born when Hastings and Napier last hosted this event, for the second time, in 1958. Before the Taradale tournament many bowlers will enjoy the opportunity, at Queen's Birthday, to play in the South Island Champs at Ashburton or a number of time honoured North Island fixtures. Good luck for a successful 2014 winter. I look forward to meeting up with you all over the bowling season. Martin Nordqvist. President N.Z.I.B. Methven.

HOW TO KEEP THOSE NEW MEMBERS

By now all clubs should be up and running for the new season. Some of you will no doubt have new members. We know of several clubs that have welcomed not one, but several new players into their ranks this year. The challenge now is to keep them. Here are some tips:

Make sure that they are made welcome when they walk in the door every club-night.

Ensure they are put into balanced teams with players who can help them get started. They don't need a flurry of bowlers telling them what to do - just one or two hand-picked members with the skill to show them how to deliver a bowl, and get a basic understanding of what it's all about. Don't confuse them with a mind-blowing list of dos and don'ts - just one little thing at a time and gradually build up their skills- set.

Remember they don't yet understand such terms as "take your green" - start by explaining how to aim out to the side of the mat and watch the bowl turn back. Encourage them without being patronising - a new player knows the bowl's not much good if it's only part-way up the mat, or stuck out to the side.

Just take it one thing at a time and you'll soon have promising players you can include in teams for club and district competitions.

Good luck!

Now that we're into April clubs and districts will be starting their competitions and championships. Don't just leave it to the players to enter teams. Get around and urge everyone to take part and don't forget new players.

LAST CHANCE FOR NATIONAL ENTRIES

24TH April is the closing date with your District Secretary so get your entry in quickly. Don't forget it will be a new format this year as follows:

Saturday 7 June Singles qualifying with post section on the Sunday; Monday Pairs qualifying with Post Section on the

Tuesday; Wednesday Triples

qualifying with Post Section the

following Day; Friday Fours qualifying

concluding on Saturday 14 June with

Fours post section. There is still

plenty of accommodation available.



NAPIER MOTEL ASSOCIATION

Just visit www.napiermotels.co.nz

HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF INTERCLUB VISITS?

If your club's struggling for attendance, how about a social visit to another club. Perhaps the host club could provide the supper, and the visitors take the prizes. If you're not into away visits, what can you do to make club nights more appealing, to keep members wanting to come. Think outside the square and you might come up with some good ideas. If so, and they go down well, pass them on.

◆ NOMINATION FORMS

Nomination forms for the Academy and Masters fixture to be held at the event have gone out to districts so make sure your Selectors are aware if you are keen to be considered. It is always a struggle for the Southern team selectors in particular as nominations are few. Make their job easier and participate in one of the fun nights of the Championships. The entries for the South Island Championships to be held in Ashburton also close at this time.

◆ LAST CHANCE FOR CHEAP RULE BOOKS

The 50cents a book for a minimum of 10 remains for April!

◆ BOWLING FOR \$\$\$\$

A Fun idea for improving draw bowls is to put a \$5 note in the middle of the mat.

Try it - students love it!

TREASURED INDOOR BOWLS BOOKS LOOKING FOR A LOVING HOME

Marilyn Wheeler's many scrap books relating to NZ and Auckland Indoor Bowls have been displayed at some Nationals and have attracted much attention. There are about 50 books on Auckland and general Indoor bowls news and 8 large folders on the Nationals. The books go back to about the 1960's to the early 2000's and the Nationals from the 1950's.

Marilyn gave up bowls in the early 1990's and continued with the books for some time, but now finds it difficult to get all the relative information, so regretfully has decided not to continue with them. Hours and hours of work have gone into these treasured items and we would all hate to see them destroyed.

Is there anybody who would be interested in them or has any idea where they might usefully spend the rest of their days? Please let National Office know.

St Andrews Indoor Bowling Club
60th Diamond Jubilee Celebration



A Celebration Dinner has been organised for Members & Past Members on the 12th July 2014 at the St Andrews Golf Course Pavilion. All Members & Past Members who wish to express their interest in attending please contact:

Pam Ph: (07) 853 2383 Email: pamhinton@extra.co.nz or

Jenny Ph: (07) 849 4764 Email: barrynynz@gmail.com

◆ NATIONAL UMPIRES EXAM

The National Examination will be held on 4 May and registrations close 15 April. Hopefully your district has offered some training for all umpires and measurers this season and we look forward to introducing some newly qualified umpires to our National events later in the year.

◆ YOUR OWN COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER

It is easy to get one- just go to www.nzindoorbowls.co.nz and download a copy now. If you do not have a computer I am sure you know someone who has - even one of your club mates might like to copy for all your club members!

