

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A lot has happened this month. We started off with the tour to Australia by the N.Z team. Our part of the team, which was all the South Islanders and two supporters left Christchurch at 6:15 on the Saturday morning bound for Melbourne where we met up with the rest of the team. We left Melbourne at 2pm for Mildura and arrived one hour later. From there it was a three hour bus trip to Broken Hill. One thing I learned very quickly was how vast Australia is. When we left the built up area, for 300 ks, all there was were two rest areas and a Road House. Broken Hill is an old mining town of around 18,000 people and well worth a visit. There is plenty to see and do, including rides on a Camel which the oldest member of our group went on. We had two days practice and the International started on the Thursday. That night we were three games up but on the Friday night the score was all square. Saturday saw the Aussies come out fighting and the rest is history. A lot could be said about why we lost, but at the end of the day, we got out played. I would have to say that most of the people that we met were very friendly, but Broken Hill is a long way to go to play Bowls.

Graeme Whitton, who was the National Coach for a number of years passed away in May. Our thoughts are with his wife Betty, and his family at this time. Also in May I attended a coaching session which was held at the School of Physical Education at Otago University. This was run by Michael Lawson and 26 students were on the course. I helped establish this link with the University and NZIB has been involved with this course since 2003.

Queen's Birthday weekend saw my wife and youngest daughter and I go to Pukekohe to the North Island Championships. It is unusual for a South Islander to attend such an event, but I enjoyed it very much. It was good to catch up with some people we had a bit to do with when the International was in Pukekohe in 2007. Well done to the Bowlers from Counties for running such a good event and well done to the winners and other place getters. Perhaps it was a pity that more people couldn't support this event.

Well, the Nationals are just two sleeps away as I write this report. Good luck to all that are attending this event and remember, if you have an issue with any matter to do with this sport, please feel free to talk to myself or a executive member at the Nationals. Till next time, take care. David Edgar

## UMPIRES NEWS

Wow what a great result from the umpire's examination. 20 new National umpires can now be accredited with passing. 7 have received partial passes and there were 4 candidates who received 100% results. Thanks to Graham Gerrand who had the daunting task of marking the papers. As some areas are amalgamating it is timely to remind secretaries to pass on any information to your umpire's representative and to keep in constant liaison with them to ensure a good working relationship. Keep up the good work you are all doing to encourage new measurers and to foster umpiring in your districts. I think the open book examination has certainly improved things and we will continue to evaluate the examination process to encourage you all to become part of the umpiring network. As we now have a slot on the website it is good to go in there to see how you fare with results etc. There are some useful tips put together by our examiner Graham Gerrand and myself. It is also timely to check your umpiring equipment before you go into umpire at tournaments and games, so as not to be embarrassed when the measures don't work or your torch is flat. Please check these before you do your turn.

Remember I am only a phone call or email away if you have any questions. Please make yourself known to me at the Nationals. I will have a list there if it needs updating as well. It is great being an umpire as you can help players get to know the Laws of the Game better and to improve your own knowledge of taking part in the game as an official. Viv Hudson Umpire's Executive Representative

## DON'T FORGET ALSO INDOOR BOWLS OF TELEVISION

Watch the Semi Finals and Finals on TV. Channel 23 on Freeview and Channel 110 on SKY Digital There will be an Indoor Bowls extravaganza on these Channels Sunday 14 June starting at 3pm and you will be able to view both the Semi Finals and Finals of the Singles and Pairs. More details in SKYWATCH.

## OBITUARY

It is with sadness that we wish to advise the sudden death of Graeme Whitton in his 67<sup>th</sup> year at Rotorua. NZIB want to recognize the service that Graeme Whitton gave to NZIB over many years. Graeme was appointed the first Director of Coaching for New Zealand Indoor Bowls in 1991. At the time he lived in Buller and he made great progress in getting the coaching scheme up and running. Over the twelve years he held the position he made significant advances in the coaching programme and visited all the districts up and down the country spending many hours driving to different venues. Wherever he could, he arranged billets in the districts he visited, and made many friends as he went. He also wrote the coaching manual and a Club Coaches book. He was also the driving force behind the first coaching videos in 1994 and 1995 and it was only this year that NZIB have produced a DVD to update them. One of the highlights for him was being asked to coach the New Zealand team in 1997 – a very successful team. He also enjoyed coaching the Special Olympics Indoor Bowlers and the Visually Handicapped bowlers. You may have left us Graeme but "Charlie" will still continue to show the "bowling line in your honour. Betty wishes to thanks all those bowlers, umpires and friends who sent beautiful cards and messages to her from all over New Zealand. Graeme will be sadly missed.

## MAKE USE OF [www.nzindoorbowls.co.nz](http://www.nzindoorbowls.co.nz) FOR ALL UP TO DATE NEWS

This includes results from the North Island Championships and TSB Catholic Nationals



## COACHING NEWS

Special Olympics Indoor Bowls regions throughout NZ have responded tremendously to the new coaching DVD. At a regional games in Auckland recently, National Coach Craig Whiteside had tremendous feedback from northern districts who had attended the North Shore seminar. These DVD's are now available from National

Office at a cost of \$20.00. Recently on a trip to Gisborne, Craig discovered he had a stronger than anticipated association with his hosts, Faye & Mike Chisholm. Although Craig had only met his hosts a few weeks before at the Rotorua seminar, he discovered that Fay & Mike had been to his sister's wedding 45 years ago. They even had the photo to prove it showing Craig as a 10 year old page-boy. It is a small world isn't it?

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

### NZ SECONDARY SCHOOLS EVENT

This will again be held following on from the Junior Singles in North Wellington 30-31 August. Last year the inaugural event was a success and the students loved it. We are hopefully that many more will be able to enjoy the experience this year. Your district has a copy of the entry form which must be signed off from the school. Information is on the NZ Secondary School website [www.nzsssc.org.nz](http://www.nzsssc.org.nz)

### HISTORY IS MADE AT LION FOUNDATION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

What a way to mark the 60th Jubilee event in Timaru with Sue Burnand becoming the first women ever to win the singles event. In the final she defeated Grant Rayner from North Wellington 13-11 after a deciding end was required to decide the winner. Grant would have made history as well if he had won – he would have been the first winner ever of all four titles. Read more on [www.nzindoorbowls.co.nz](http://www.nzindoorbowls.co.nz)

### SOUTH ISLAND MASTERS GAMES 2009 - CHRISTCHURCH

The South Island Masters Games are a sporting festival and apart from having to be over 35 **anyone can enter**. They are on 30<sup>th</sup> September – 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Pairs 7pm Wednesday, Triples 7pm Thursday, Fours 7pm Friday at CIBA Hall, Kearneys Rd, Christchurch. Register online at [www.simasters.co.nz](http://www.simasters.co.nz) or Contact Carmel Sullivan, District Secretary, P O Box 24220, Eastgate, Christchurch 8642 for an entry form.

### GROUP INSURANCE SCHEME

Back in 1990 Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT) were appointed to manage a voluntary group insurance scheme to insure the assets and liabilities of affiliated Indoor Bowls Clubs.

Over 200 clubs/districts have taken advantage of this hassle free process to date and have received excellent service. Call the team at JLT 0800-111-644 for advice/assistance regarding all your insurance needs.