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WELCOME TO THE 2014 SEASON

By the time you read this some clubs will already be up and running for 2014. We hope you, and all the others about to start, have a very successful season. We also hope you are making an effort to attract some new players this year. We know you are competing against television, the Internet, computer games etc, but we all need to keep trying to rebuild memberships. What about a push to attract families-maybe introduce a 3 generations tournament? How about taking a mat and bowls into a shopping mall and encouraging people to have a go. National Office has promotional brochures available and also the popular red and white 'flute real estate signs' that were used a few years ago are back in stock. All clubs should have available the excellent DVD "Indoor Bowls For All" and the publication Beginners Guide to Indoor Bowls. Make them available to your newer members and get them excited about improving their skills for the season ahead.

2014 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The National Championships return to Hawkes Bay this year for the first time in many years. Hastings hosted the 1953 Nationals (not that many years after the sport started - the first Nationals were in 1950) and Napier joined with Hastings to stage the 1958 event.



NAPIER MOTEL ASSOCIATION

This year it's the turn of Taradale (which is part of Napier), with their magnificent stadium the Pettigrew Green Arena at 480 Gloucester Street. The twin cities Napier and Hastings have lots of attractions to fill in your leisure time, and there's plenty of accommodation.

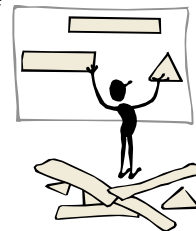
Just visit www.napiermotels.co.nz

Entries forms and posters have been distributed to Districts Secretaries so should be reaching your club soon. Why not make up a group and make sure it includes new members who have not been before. Once they have been they will be likely to return like so many of you do!

Remember entries for the Nationals close with District Secretaries on the 24th of April.

CHANGES TO NATIONALS FORMAT

Napier will be the scene this year for one of the biggest changes to the Nationals for some time. In the past, section play for the singles has taken place on Day 1, Saturday, with the event completed on the Monday. This year all the events will be over two consecutive days - Singles-Saturday/Sunday; Pairs Monday/Tuesday and so on. One reason for the change is so players who compete but don't qualify can go home if not entered in other events. So far feedback has been positive, but we'll be interested in your feedback afterwards. Another change as a result of the survey conducted last year is that it will now be section winners or 6 points to qualify with drawn games being played out. Hopefully this will eliminate some of the "fixed draws" which have happened too many times in the past.



DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ROLES

These positions have worked well in Taranaki and Tauranga/ surrounding districts and NZIB is keen to assist Districts set up a similar role within their area. Craig Whiteside has been appointed National Development Manager and is available to come to your district and help you set up a workable model. It can be done and the future of the sport depends on Districts prepared to recognise the fact that changes must be made.

◆ BOWLS & MATS NOW AVAILABLE

Blue and orange bowls are the "in colour" and will be on show at the National Championships and the Island Tour. They cost the same as the black and yellow bowls at \$1,500 a set and new mats are also available at a cost \$1,100. Get those funding applications in and give your club night a new look!

◆ LAWS OF THE GAME - NEVER CHEAPER!

The current special is 50cents each with a minimum order of 10. The beginning of the new season is the time to issue one to all your club members.

◆ WEBSITE NEWS

Jock Jamieson, our webmaster continues to do a great job to keep the site current and everything you want to know about Indoor bowls should be available on the website. If not let us know and if appropriate it will be added. Visit www.nzindoorbowls.co.nz

MORE CHANGES AT 2016 NATIONALS

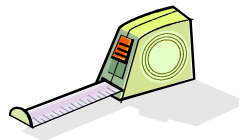
What do you think of the introduction of an optional over 60's grade being introduced at the Timaru Nationals coming up in 2016? Shortly there will be a survey asking these questions and more on the website as your Executive is keen to hear what you think of the changes that are taking place.

CANTERBURY'S PRESIDENT RECOGNISED

Canterbury Indoor Bowls is very proud of their President David Bullock who was nominated for the Administrator of the Year at the recent Canterbury 2014 Marriotts Hadlee Sports Awards. His commitment to the Association through the tribulations of the past three years has been outstanding. From eleven nominations David was named a finalist up against Rod Latham for Golf and Rowing's John Wylie, so this was a proud moment for the Cauty Association and for Indoor Bowls. David along with all nominees was presented a trophy in recognition of his achievement.

UMPIRES & MEASURERS NEEDED

All districts should be organising an umpires and measurers meeting at the beginning of the season to review the past year and determine who will be available for the coming season. Also at this meeting training opportunities should be discussed and all present should be encouraged to sit the National Exam on 4 May. Don't be put off by that word Examination. You are able to take in a copy of the Laws of the Game and it can be achieved easily with a little bit of study. A big thank you to all umpires and measurers in advance - the sport needs you. Best wishes to you all for a rewarding and enjoyable season of umpiring.



◆ SOUTH ISLAND CHAMPS

Ashburton will host the South Island championships this year, for the fourth time. It's a nice, central location for South Island bowlers. Entries close on the 1st of May for this event.

◆ NZ MIXED FOURS TURNS 50 THIS YEAR

Are you a past winner? Why don't you attend this year's event at Upper Hutt on 26 July and share the birthday cake!

◆ NZ TEAM MANAGER WANTED

Details are on the website or contact National Office. The next International will be in May 2015 at Mount Maunganui. Nominations for the team will be asked for mid-year with trialists being announced at the Inter Island Test Match in Timaru 16 August.



**SPORT
NEW ZEALAND**

