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LION FOUNDATION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - STILL LIMITED VACANCIES

This event which is being held for the first time in many years in Hawkes Bay is fast approaching. Good to see the title holders returning. Grant l'Ami has entered through his North Taranaki district in the singles. Lisa Gould who won the pairs with her late husband Trevor will combine with Sheree Holmes from Upper Hutt Valley. Triples title holders Paul Midgley, Grant Harvey and Sheree Holmes plus 2013 Fours winners John Zittersteijn, Mark Ridley, Sean Ridley and Gina Owen all represent North Taranaki.

A total of 903 entries have been received compares with 1063 for Rotorua last year. Interestingly enough the percentage attending compared to affiliated members has remained constant at 9.1% over many years. Bush Ruahine percentage is much higher with 30 of their 126 member's attending- well done.

There will be 520 contesting the Singles, 320 in the pairs, 195 in the triples, and 150 entries for the fours.

80 mats will be used in the singles with 3 sessions on the Saturday. There will be 2 sessions on the Monday for the pairs; one session Wednesday for the Triples and just one session Friday for the Fours. Remember this year the post section for each event will be held the following day to the qualifying round so it is very important that you check to see that you are in the draw if you should be. It will be too late arriving on the morning of post section and advising an error! Each morning will start at 8.30am which will make finding a handy car park easier.

UMPIRES NEWS

* Twenty five names were registered to sit the National Exam on 4 May - good luck to those who sat.

* A call for all Umpires and measurers- please be prepared to assist at the National Championships in Taradale. Last year was a real struggle & your help is required -even in your bye round if playing. Umpires that do help for a certain amount of time will have their entry fee refunded. Are you interested in this? Find out more at the Umpire's meeting in the Napier Indoor Bowls Hall on Friday 6 June, 7.30pm.

The Inaugural Graham Gerrand Memorial Trophy Triples was held recently at Ngongotaha Hall. The tournament was a celebration in memory of former New Zealand Umpire's Examiner and Rotorua Umpires President Graham Gerrand.



It was fitting that Graham's wife Margurrite presented the trophy to the winners Mike, Sam and Pani Bryant from Westbrook (pictured left). Graham was passionate about umpiring & very much enjoyed setting the national exam and loved looking for scenarios to make the examination practical and interesting. He was National Examiner from 2006 to 2012. The runners up were Tauranga's Alex Reed, Don Harris and Debbie Reed.

OUT & ABOUT PROMOTING THE GAME

The National Development Manager has been busy over the past few weeks. Craig Whiteside reports putting 20 classes through "Have A Go" at Mount Intermediate School. He had 577 children involved over three days. The following week Craig was at Matamata Intermediate where he put through 336 children in two days. At times he had more coaches than mats, showing the support locals are giving. Craig and his wife Robyn then travelled to Wanganui to meet up with new District Development Officer Brendon Kenny, who just happens to be Wanganui Centre President. They approached schools in the area to get involved and also met local coaches. Of 10 schools visited, 7 have so far put indoor bowls programmes in place. Craig is now visiting the South Island and we should hear back from him in time for the next newsletter. He also has high praise for Poverty Bay-East Coast which this year included five juniors in their rep team that played the Hone trophy in Tauranga recently. "Good to see Executive Member David Lynn and his selectors leading by example," says Craig. Visits to schools in this district have commenced again and Indoor Bowls will be included in a very successful Wednesday Sport afternoon involving all of their Secondary Schools in Term 3. Fourteen schools have signed up for 4 weeks of indoor bowls finishing with a cluster type event in Waikato and also similar sessions are happening in Southland.

NZ MIXED FOURS

The search has begun to find the country's top Mixed Fours combination. Some districts have already found their champions and others will be doing so over the coming weeks. The zone play-offs finals are set down for Saturday the 5th of July with the 50th National final at Upper Hutt on 26 July. And did you hear about the club that was asked if it was putting in an entry for the Mixed Fours. We would, replied the secretary, if we had some female members...



NEW BOWLS/ MATS AVAILABLE

Order quickly before Henselite Australia does away with their NZ agent and the process changed.



◆ NI & NZ SECONDARY SCHOOL CHAMPS

Tauranga IBA will again be hosting the North Island Secondary Schools event in the July school holidays at their new home the Mount Sports Centre. Pairs will be played on Monday 14 July with the singles the following day. This will be a good lead up event for the NZ

Secondary Schools which is the day after the Junior Singles at North Wellington Indoor Bowls Hall 31 August- 1 September. Your district has copies of both these entry forms which must be signed off from the school. Info is on the NZ Secondary

START THEM YOUNG

Most people with a young baby have to get in a sitter so they can go to bowls. Not so Sharon Redding, of the Awakaponga Club in the Bay of Plenty. Sharon regularly takes her

children with her and wasn't put off when new baby Shyanne came along. She's not yet up to offering advice, or playing, but her regular appearance at indoor bowls events in the Eastern Bay of Plenty means it might not be long before Shyanne is more involved in the game...



◆ INTERISLANDER DISCOUNT

One of the benefits of being a member of NZIB is obtaining the group discount on ferry crossings up until 15 December. All you have to do is show that you belong to an NZIB Club. Check NZIB website or find out the details from National Office.



**SPORT
NEW ZEALAND**

