

LION FOUNDATION WELCH TROPHY

The closeness of the finals scores indicated how successful the reduced number of teams attending the final was. Waikato Indoor Bowls representatives ended up winning the symbol of supremacy in New Zealand Indoor Bowls for the nineteenth time with their last win in this event being 1997. The team members were John Frelan, Darryn Bell, Roger Bartosh, Richard Caddy, Steve Flaszynski, Barry Chapman, Maureen Pruden and Shaun Blackbourn plus their reserve Arthur Bettridge and manager Neil Rollo. It was John Frelan's seventh title; Darryn Bell's fourth and for the remainder of the team their first title at this level. Arthur Bettridge had won his gold star in 1988. In a cliffhanger Waikato won with 58 points, followed by Otago 57, and Wanganui 53. Wanganui playing in the Welch Trophy final for the first time performed creditably. Outstanding players for Waikato were Richard Caddy who recorded 8 wins and three draws and John Frelan who won seven games and had two draws. Garry Flewitt was the top scorer for Otago with eight wins out of a possible 12 while Kevin Coombe stood out for Wanganui with seven wins and a draw. Caddy was the player of the tournament and only lost one game out of his 12 matches.



CHANGES AT THE TOP

There will be changes to the Executive at the sports Annual General Meeting to be held in Wellington 2 December. President Ian Fraser will be stepping down one year early and Deputy President David Edgar from South Otago will take over to lead the organisation. Current Executive Members Greg Baxter and Alison Cowan are not standing this year so there will be plenty of interest in the election of the Executive. Current members Avon Compton, Delwyn Hughes and Shane Cuthbert will be up for re-election with new comers David Bullock (Canterbury), Colin Dow (Auckland), Martin Norqvist (Ashburton) and Trevor Rayner (North Wellington) contesting the 4 available positions.

CENTRAL REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS EVENT

Another successful day was held in Feilding recently for the Quadrangular between students representing Wanganui, Manawatu, North and South Taranaki. It is good to see this event now firmly established with next year's event being held in Hawera. Meanwhile down in Southland they continue their excellent work promoting the game in schools. 280 students attended coaching sessions and another 144 students participated in the Secondary and Intermediate Schools tournament. One of their schools James Hargest College will again promote indoor bowls for year 12 NCEA students. It can be done- all districts should be including a secondary schools event in their calendar and getting the assistance of their local Sports Trust to make it happen.

COOK ISLANDERS STILL PLAYING

Even though the NZ Academy, NZ Maori and Cook Island fixture was cancelled by the National Body this year it is good to see that other events taking its place. The Waikato is hosting a game Cook Islands v Maori Invitation v Seaside in their hall on 11 November and there is also another game scheduled Cook Islands v Rodney up North.

NEW ZEALAND TEAM

Not many teams have wins against Australia but hopefully the NZ Indoor Bowls team can continue their winning way when they play next May in Pukekohe. The team will be announced at the Annual General Meeting from the 50 nominations received-21 for the ladies and 29 for the men. Good luck to all. The yellow bowls are proving to be so popular they will be used in this event



NEW EVENT NEXT YEAR

Districts have indicated that they are keen to see another fixture creating a pathway for up and coming players towards possible Island team selection or National honours. Your Executive have taken this aboard and next June at the National Championships in New Plymouth two Academy teams, one representing the Northern Zone and the other the Southern Zone will play a game on the Wednesday evening.



FREE COACHING FOR 2007

Close to 100 clubs have indicated they would like to receive coaching next year and they will be contacted soon to finalise a date. Give it a go - your club just may be surprised how enjoyable and educational a visit from a Regional Coach can be- give your members the opportunity to improve their game and have fun doing it! Contact National Office if you want any more details.

NORTH ISLAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

At last indoor bowls has an event on the NZ Secondary Schools calendar and hopefully this will be a step towards a National Championships in the next two years. The date for the inaugural event is 2-4 July which is the first week of the schools holidays and it will be held in Tauranga. It will be an open event, with no qualifying necessary and all districts will be asked to promote as much as possible with their younger bowlers. More details will be available later.

2007 EVENTS TO BE PUT IN YOUR DIARIES NOW!

BETHLEHEM INDOOR BOWLING CLUB 1957-2007

Help them celebrate 50 great years
Reunion February 11th 2007
For more information contact Jill Pidwell
61B Westminster Drive, Tauranga
Or phone 07 577 6284
Or Email jilliam48@xtra.co.nz



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

HAVE YOU BOOKED FOR NEW PLYMOUTH YET??

Make it two weeks of bowls by entering the 46th Annual Queens Birthday Tournament and then stay on for the National Championships 9-16 June. Taranaki has heaps of other attractions to visit- even a race meeting on the Thursday of the Nationals! They have already advertised for houses so contact Liz Corbett- phone 06 751 1904 if you would like one of these.