



**NEW ZEALAND
INDOOR BOWLS**

NZ INDOOR BOWLS NEWS

PO Box 11-221, Wellington

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As I write this I have just completed a busy period travelling around the North Island with the South Island Team, controlling the Junior Singles and the Secondary Schools Singles and Pairs and finally the Welch Trophy. The tour with the South Island team was extremely enjoyable. The team were great ambassadors for the sport with a great attitude to their tour games receiving many favourable comments about their conduct and friendliness from the Centres visited. My congratulations also to the host centres. They all strived to make the matches memorable occasions but the accolades must be given to North Harbour who made their match a really festive event. The other events will be reported on elsewhere but my congratulations to Canterbury on winning the Welch Trophy in extremely extenuating circumstances. The mental strength and resilience displayed to put the thoughts of home aside after Saturday morning's earthquake and focus on the task at hand was inspirational and I know the thoughts of all those involved with the Welch were with them as they returned home to Christchurch on Sunday. I must also comment favourably on the attitude and conduct of the players at all the events I have attended this season. Every one of them has been played with an amazing amicability and sense of enjoyment even under intense pressure and all the players are to be congratulated for that. It is a pleasure to be involved in events that the players are obviously enjoying and standards of conduct and sportsmanship being displayed are commendable. Well done. Trevor Rayner, President, NZIB

WELL DESERVED 3 IN A ROW WELCH WIN TO CANTERBURY

Even though Otago lead so well for 3 sessions no one could deny the great effort produced on the final day by Canterbury. To add salt to the wound Dunedin Airport was closed Sunday night due to high winds which meant the Otago team was grounded in Christchurch and had to bus home arriving at 3am! Our thoughts are with all Canterbury bowlers- Secretary Carmel Sullivan still without water and power!

The following is a report from victorious Canterbury Captain Simon Thomas.

This year's Welch Trophy competition in Hutt Valley bought a whole new meaning to the sport for both myself and I'm sure the rest of my Canterbury teammates. After the usual demanding build up to the event which consists of practise either once or twice a week in the few months leading up until Paterson and then hopefully Welch we arrived at Wellington Airport in search for a third consecutive victory, but knowing that everything up until this point had gone horribly wrong as far as injuries were concerned..... If only we knew! After a tight start to the competition in round 1 we found ourselves only half a point from the lead but with 4 teams within 1 point of each other we knew that Saturday was the key day if we were to retain the title. The day began earlier than expected at 5.26am when I was awoken from a friend asking if I had felt the 7.4 magnitude quake that had just hit the city. At this point a shockwave ran straight through my veins and we immediately informed the team members what had happened so we could all contact our families to make sure everyone was okay. As news reports came in we sat around amazed at what we were hearing, at our first team meeting that morning we decided we would stick it out and we would win it for our families who have suffered so much in our absence. Through the next two rounds our scores suffered badly with low rounds of 17 and 18. The entire team was disgusted with the way we were playing and when a couple of individuals defied an order from the Manager cracks started to appear within our team for the first time. The next round of fours again netted only 2 points to leave us reeling in 4th place 14 points behind. At this point we had another meeting which concluded that everyone just wanted to be home. It was however here when it was mentioned that if we were to return empty handed then we were not only away from our families when they needed us most but it would have ended up being a complete waste of time and that was even more unfair to our families. We were a team again and the rest is history! Personally, my ability to concentrate on Saturday and Sunday was not there, normally a strong part of my game I just could not seem to focus on the task at hand. This caused me to play a high percentage of erratic bowls and gave me an unusually short fuse, I did manage to bottle everything up until it was over but broke down during my speech as anyone there would have seen. It seemed so unreal to us when it was over and we had won. I think the most common reaction was relief that it was over and we could go home. There was very little conversation as we headed to the airport which came as a surprise.

On the flight home a number of us asked for window seats so we could see the devastation caused by the quake. Funnily enough none of us saw a thing, even on the drive home we saw nothing until we turned into our street and were met by a ton of roadwork's which were trying to clear a huge trench that was caused by a ruptured water pipe which had opened a 2 foot wide crater straight through someone's house. Our area however, was lucky. When Ngaire asked me to write this today I went for a ride to see the mess. Buildings falling down all around town, large steel bridges twisted and bent as though they more resembled a piece of liquorice than their intended purpose, streets cracked to the point where a car could not drive over it and the biggest thing of all silt, truck loads of it everywhere, in every area making the scene look more like a flood than an earthquake. Finally, to give you an idea of what we are going through.... since we arrived home last night we have had over 30 aftershocks. In the hour or so it has taken me to write this article we have had 5 shakes. The two bigger ones measured 4.4 and 4.1 in magnitude. The 4.4 quake which hit caused my neighbours 8 ft high concrete fence to collapse into a pile of rubble on his lawn. This is not fun!

VIV HUDSON CONTINUES TO LEAD THE UMPIRES ON THE EXECUTIVE

Thank you to those who have re-elected me for another term on the NZIB executive. I am enjoying this challenge and have certainly learnt a lot since coming on board. It was great to be part of the secondary schools and NZ junior singles recently and to see how these young ones really take to the sport. Some great shots were played and boy was I busy!!!! I have been encouraged by the coaching of umpires that is happening in districts and was part of the training in North Wellington recently where 5 new people have put their hands up to take on the role and the challenge. I encourage all districts to at least increase their umpire base by 10% for the up coming season.

GOOD WORK BEING DONE IN ASHBURTON SCHOOLS

During May and June members from Ashburton Indoor Bowls went into schools to coach and help the school children learn how to play indoor bowls. They then ran 3 days of Inter-School competition, with 6 schools participating. Sixty children participated playing a pairs competition over 3 days. The schools and children enjoyed the competition and two more schools have indicated already they would be keen to enter next year. Hopefully the success of the programme will be reflected in a rise in the districts junior membership and more students participating in the NZ Secondary Schools event in years to come. Thanks to those many members who spent many hours with these children.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

2011 EVENTS TO BE PUT IN YOUR DIARIES NOW!

4-6 June South Island Indoor Bowls Championships to be held in Ashburton

For additional information contact Secretary Ashburton IBA, Robyn Atkinson Phone 03-308 8319 or Email akki@xtra.co.nz

11-18 June National Championships - Porirua - Contact Secretary NWIBA Gwen Duggan

04-4781551 or Email gwen.duggan@xtra.co.nz

The new Te Rauparaha Arena will be a delight to play in and it is easy walking for shops, cafes, Porirua Club, museum and galleries plus the attached swimming complex. Accommodation handy will not be a problem but if you want to stay in the city and experience the high life that is okay as well as you will be going against the traffic- and Wellington traffic is not like in Auckland!

60 years of Indoor Bowls

Congratulations to Stratford and Districts RSA IBC who are the longest playing club within in Central Taranaki Association and recently celebrated 60 years of indoor bowls. A special gathering of 50 past and present members enjoyed a day of reminiscing together of good bowls and happy memories.



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