

# INDOOR BOWLS NEWS

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## The President's Big Five

As the 2002 season of play comes close to an end it is timely to reflect on five of the highlights from my first year in office. It is fair to say that there has been many, however the following are the five that spring to mind.

## North South Match - New Plymouth

I am often reminded that as President you must remain impartial. During this event I found it very difficult, being a North Islander all my life. The first round saw the South leading by a healthy margin and feeling confident moving into the second round. I was sitting in the gallery with a lady with a yellow wig, some of our supporters do some very strange things. The men's fours were exploring an opportunity to score several points, after a quick discussion between Pat and Keith, Pat returned to play his shot. After the dust had settled to a final yell of "Get Off" the North Island men's team held seven shots. An awesome display of Bowls from New Zealand's best and a shot that will be talked about for many years to come. Ask Gary Henderson to describe it to you one day.

## Junior Singles - Palmerston North

It was my pleasure to run this event on behalf of the National Executive. The weekend started off well with most modes of transport running several hours late, my flight over an hour and a half late. No problem however, for the local management team who had their finger on the pulse all weekend. This year was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event. An additional presentation was made at the start of the event with a certificate for everyone to mark the occasion. We started right on time after my final comments that were "this is your day have fun and if there is anything that I can do to make your day enjoyable let me know" As further luck would have it we had 16 players who made the post section draw - a Hall Controller's dream. Those 16 were ready for action shortly after lunch and it was looking that we would continue to run hours ahead of schedule. Throughout the day there were some excellent Bowls played. The future of the sport simply get down and play, nominate the shots and go for it. A very positive weekend for our sport topped off by a good win to the Southern Zone team.

## Lion Foundation National Championships - Wanganui

I don't have too many issues standing in front of people and opening my mouth - however to do this with 600 plus pairs of eyes watching was a huge task. I practiced that speech for hours before I had to make it. The formalities over and let play commence with singles section play. The week at the Nationals is very full on with meetings and functions to attend even before the first bowl is played. The preparation work that is completed beforehand by the hosting Centre and the Executive team is huge. Even with the numbers declining at this event the Nationals remains our biggest event for the year. As the event was coming to an end the remaining spectators were about to witness a piece of history. Grant L'Ami was heading towards his fifth National title and the award

that go's with that the National Gold Star. As the last end of the Fours final was played and the heavens were about to open ( again during the week) Grant had achieved this fantastic milestone. I am only the second President to ever have the honor to present a Gold Star - Well done Grant. The last act of the week long programme was to official close the event, as I picked up the mic to do so the heavens opened with a huge crack of thunder, it would be fair to say that only three people heard my final address. My thanks in case it was missed to the Wanganui team and National executive. Lets hope Nelson turns on the sunshine next year.

## Southland's 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee

Ask me what my cat is called and that will give you an indication of how my address to the 140 people gathered to celebrate this event started. Jane and I had much pleasure in attending Southland's 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee that was held in the Centre Hall during the weekend of 30 August and 2 September. Jane and I smiled at each other as the hall was set up very much like our wedding reception in March of this year. We were introduced to many of the colourful members of the Southland District. We were extremely well looked after by the local President and treated to a small piece of sight seeing around Invercargill before our flight home with the best tour guide in the area. We didn't make it to Bluff for lunch, however will be back to the deep South soon and will make sure we have time to fit this in. Once again thanks Southland we had a great weekend.

## The Website

At the time of putting this together our site has over 4000 hits. For those who may not now what a hit is, it is an access to the Website. The Website has up-to-date information of all of our National events and really took off during the week of the Nationals. Each National event also has a small summary of the history and the previous winners. The exciting thing about the Website is we are have had enquires about various things from South Africa, USA and England. The power of the net is huge. It has been said before, however I will say it again, thanks to all involved in setting the site up, providing the information and having it where it is now.

There have been many more highlights this year however it would be unfair to take up the entire newsletter when I have an annual report to write where many more will be mentioned. October will see the play of two additional Internationals - a New Zealand Academy selection will play the Cook Islands in Auckland and the New Zealand Maori team in Hamilton. This I am sure will be another highlight for the season. Indoor Bowls is a wonderful game and whatever capacity you are involved in be it as a social player, competitive player or dedicated administrator have fun and enjoy yourself.

**Shane Cuthbert, President**

## Northland Junior Development Day

The third annual Secondary & Intermediate Schools

Indoor Bowls fours competition was held in Whangarei last month.

Even though the day fell during a busy week on the Schools' calendar, 17 teams of four took part. The vent started at 9.30am and finished at 2pm, with teams playing 5 rounds of 35 minutes. Teams were divided into two sections - Intermediates (Year 7 & 8) and Secondary (Year 9 & over).

The day started with a short demonstration game with 4 senior bowlers playing an experienced college team. This resulted in the school team winning and set the tone for the day. Who cared if there were three or four all on the mat to work out who had shot - or if knees and hands were on the mat when bowling!! The main thing was the children got the feel of the game and enjoyed themselves. An adult supervised on each mat and kept the score for them.

Sixty-eight children participated with 15 volunteers from throughout the local clubs helping. Our day was run in conjunction with Sport Northland who has given us a firm date on their Secondary Schools' Sports Calendar. They sent out the entry forms to all the schools in our area.

The most exciting thing about it was that we did not have to ask for volunteers to help - the same people returned for the third year in a row, a little weary at the end of the day, but all agreeing it had been a great success.

## Southern Bowlers Go For Gold

The gold rush of last season has continued in Southland in 2002. In the recent Southland Fours Championship Jan Low, Grasmere Club achieved her Gold Star to complete the family affair. Jan's husband Graham won the bar to his Gold Star in 2001 and son Gary also won his Gold Star last year. In the Southland Singles Championship, Clare Stronach from the Tokanui Club won her Gold Star. Clare first won a Southland Championship in 1981 as part of her late husband Bill Kane's fours team.

## From The Waikato

This year the Hillcrest Indoor Bowling Club celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the 29<sup>th</sup> September. Well known bowler Arthur Bettridge who is skip of the men's triples in the recently announced NZ Maori team has also gained a bar to his Gold Star by winning this years Open Singles. His first title was back in 1963. Great bowling Arthur!

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