



FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are under way again in most areas, with some already having completed local district championships to ensure they can fit them all into their programme.

I hope all members have had a chance to review the information that was sent out to all clubs in the club package that I mentioned previously. I would welcome your feedback on the content and ideas for the future along with any feedback you have on the direction that the game is going.

Our emphasis this year is on developing a Coaching Structure which involves having competent people in place at both Club and District level. Support will be provided to increase the skills of those appointed to these coaching roles. Michael Lawson is leading this programme and would be keen to hear from any district that is interested in being part of the programme.

See you in Tauranga for the Nationals or Balclutha for the South Island Champs.

Good luck to you all.

Barry Chapman, President

2016 NATIONALS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The team from the Tauranga Association is making steady progress towards staging this event. Advertising and sponsorship is going well with the Tauranga Electricity Consumers Trust and NZCT coming up with good funding.

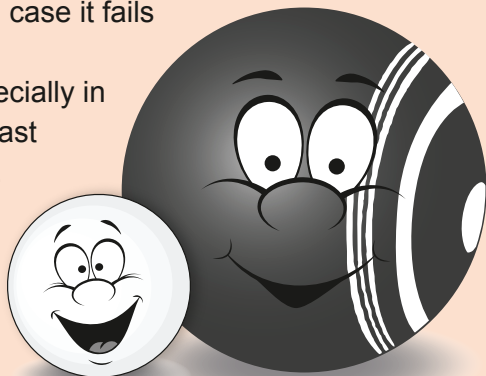
Tauranga have been especially careful to brief the stadium caterers so they understand the expected volume of food required as well as the type, for a quick turnaround.

All nine members of the organising committee have been visiting clubs in the area enlisting their support and help.

And something we don't seem to be able to do without these days – Wi-Fi has been arranged with the ASB Arena, with back-up facilities in case it fails at any time.

Tauranga are looking forward to hosting a lot of visitors especially in the Masters grades which were so successfully introduced last year. If you haven't got your entry in yet, time is running out.

April the 22nd is the cut-off date with your District Secretary who will then ensure all entries are entered correctly through a new online entry system. Good to have our game moving more into the electronic era.



DO YOU WANT TO PLAY IN THE NATIONALS ACADEMY OR MASTERS EVENT?

This is one of the most popular social events at the Nationals so make sure your Selectors are aware if you are keen to be considered for these teams. Nomination forms have now gone to district. It is always a struggle for the Southern team selectors in particular as nominations are few so here is your chance! The closing date for nominations is 6 May.

And while we may be focusing on the Nationals don't forget the South Island Champs at Balclutha at Queen's Birthday Weekend. The exciting new venue is the Cross Recreation Centre which holds at least 120 mats which should be sufficient! It has a great lounge area which is good for viewing, a bar and even a lift! Same closing dates as the Nationals so get those entries in.



It may seem a long way off, but nominations will be called for around the middle of the year for the New Zealand team to play Australia in Australia, next year. The team will be named at this year's AGM, with a training camp planned next February.

NATIONAL UMPIRES EXAM

The National Examination will be held any time in the week leading up to 1 May and registrations close 15 April. Umpires are so vital to the game and NZIB looks forward to introducing some newly qualified umpires to our National events later in the year. Don't forget if you umpire 2 or more sessions at the Nationals you will get your entry fee refunded. Talking of refund of entry fees bowlers who advanced to the final 8 in all events in Timaru will have the opportunity to get a refund of that event this year if you apply to Tournament Office.

UNITED KINGDOM'S FESTIVAL OF BOWLS

Best wishes are extended to Executive Members Nigel Warnes, Trevor Rayner with wife Linda and last year's Nationals singles winner Avon Compton who leave shortly on a self-funded trip to this event. NZIB is always endeavouring to expand International competition for our bowlers so we look forward to what opportunities may arise while they are over there. Good luck to them as they adapt to play to the local conditions.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT?

Even though it is early days in the season, don't forget to let us know of activities in your area. Don't assume that because we're all doing the same sort of things that no-one else is interested. And please keep us posted on what you're doing to attract and retain new members.

NOMINATIONS FOR ISLAND TEAMS

This year it will be the North Island's Team touring the South Island in August. Nomination forms have been sent to districts and close on 20 May. All indoor bowls supporters are welcome to go on this tour and it does cover most of the Island. The land cost will be approximately \$1,100 for the ten days covering travel, accommodation, dinners and the odd lunch including Test Day. Contact National Office if you require any more details.

CLUB PACKS

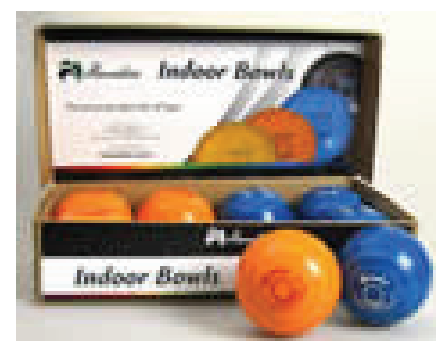
You all should have your club pack by now so we hope you found it worthwhile. Let us know what you think as bowlers satisfaction is important. The drop off of clubs choosing not to affiliate needs to be addressed and it is hoped the kit has assisted to show the value of belonging.

Don't forget your Executive Members are always there to help with any problems you may have. Contact them direct or National Office.

The seven drivers for Club satisfaction as discussed at a recent Sport NZ forum are:

- Great Coaches
- Decent facilities
- Good communication
- Fulfilling the potential and goals of all members whatever they may be
- Friendly and welcoming
- Professionalism and expertise.
- Good social environment

How does your Club rank?



A further supply of blue and orange bowls has arrived so orders can be processed quickly.