



From the President

I hope everyone has had a great break over the Xmas / New Year period and all are looking forward to a new season of Indoor Bowls. As you are all aware, we are losing numbers and participation in all aspects of our game - Clubs no longer affiliating is the major problem and your executive would like to throw out the following challenges to all.

For those of you who play in the same team all year, how about splitting up and having a go with others to broaden the base of players and friendship that you will have with others. If this is not such a good idea for you then how about everyone getting teams together and playing in other neighbouring District events, this will extend your experience within your sport and may well give you a different outlook on how other Districts do things. It may well lead to more friends and challenges within your reach. To those teams that people refer to as stacked how about splitting up and having a go with some new players. This will encourage them as far as participating in events and the satisfaction of winning with a newbie is a lot more than you may think. For those already doing this thanks

and please keep it up.

To the Districts, we challenge you to try to get the unaffiliated members to come back and join up. We think there may well be as many unaffiliated players out there, as there are affiliated players. Of course, you will have to visit them and explain all the benefits of being part of a District/National body to try and make this happen, but any success will only help everyone.

Lastly, to all the players out there if you could just introduce a couple of new players to the game with just half of them staying on then we would double our numbers. If you add this to the unaffiliated players then would triple our numbers. With these goals achieved, we would end up with about 25,000 members and our sport would take off again. Funding would be easier to get for all and I suspect affiliation fees would probably be halved. In other words with a little bit more effort from all of us the advantages would be "HUGE", a win win all round. I would just like to conclude by wishing you all a good season and look forward to seeing you all out and about on our travels.

Nigel Warnes
NZIB President

NEW PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT ELECTED AT AGM

As you will see from the message above NZIB has a new President and we welcome Nigel Warnes from GB-Mot and Ashburton's Michael Lawson who has taken over the Deputy President's role. The Warnes are a well-known indoor bowls family with Nigel's father Horace being NZIB Patron from 1986-1996 after serving as President 1981-2. Nelson's indoor bowls stadium is known as the Warnes Stadium in recognition of the work done by the family in that region.

The National Executive is here to work for all Indoor Bowlers. Let an Executive Member know if you have a problem and they will do their best to sort it out.

The Executive team with contact details are:

President - Nigel Warnes

03-522 4241; southernalpine.nz@gmail.com

Dep President - Michael Lawson

0277 278 8166; Mike.lawson@anzcofoods.com

Executive Members

Barry Chapman 029 9590213; barryjennynz@gmail.co.nz

David Edgar 03-2048227; edgar-family@xtra.co.nz

David Lynn 027 539 6072;

davelindoorbowls@gmail.com

Graham Low 03 215 9552; graham.low@outlook.co.nz

Trevor Rayner 04-232 5615; trayner@xtra.co.nz

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ASHBURTON

Each year there have been improvements made to enhance the Nationals and this year will be no exception as the Executive explore the opportunity to introduce a knock out District Challenge. Rediscovering the fun and excitement of Nationals years ago which had thousands of bowlers attending is the aim. The introduction of the Masters grade and the Feature game which gives the winners of a nominated game every session the chance to get their entry fees refunded have been big successes. Make sure you encourage all club members to attend especially those of you in neighbouring districts to Ashburton. Once bowlers experience the fun and friendship they will want to be involved again. All clubs should be receiving a poster and entry form from your District Secretary shortly or otherwise you can download from the website. The closing date for entries is 20 April so get a group together and make your arrangements now. Remember the Masters grade gives you the choice of which competition you wish to play in. They do have different entry forms so make sure you fill it in correctly at your club.

CHEAP TRAVEL ON THE INTERISLANDER

Look for the link on NZIB's website. These cheaper fares are valid for travel from 01 June through to 31 October 18

AUDREY CHOOSES TO REDUCE WORKLOAD

Rotorua Indoor Bowls stalwart Audrey Gray chose not to stand for the Rotorua Association Secretary after 35 years service but she has been re-elected as the BOP Secretary a position she has held since 2000.

Audrey had been secretary since 1982 and was presented with a certificate and gift to commemorate the occasion.

She has an extraordinary Indoor Bowls history that includes representing the North Island seven times from 1988-1993 and again in 1995.

Audrey was a member of the runner-up team at the 1984 National Championship Fours in Whangarei and was a Bay of Plenty representative. She has 24 Bay of Plenty Centre titles – four Gold Stars



Audrey with Rotorua President Mike Bryant

NORTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Rotorua is the host district this year and have promised a great event. Your club should have a copy of the poster and entry form or like the Nationals, it is on the website. Next year the National Championships will be held at the grand Rotorua Energy Event Centre so I am sure the North Island Championships this year will be a good lead up to that. Entries close with your club 20 April.

Rinks (for World Cup and Festival of Bowls)

Congratulations to the following:

Team 1 : Grant l'Ami (North Taranaki), Avon Compton (North Wellington), Gary Low (Southland), Teri Anderson (Waikato)

Team 2: Ashley Diamond (Upper Hutt Valley), Paul Wright (Auckland), Sheree Holmes (Upper Hutt Valley), Suzanne Mackie (Southland)

The Team Manager will be Trevor Rayner who has been instrumental in ensuring that further opportunities of International competition are available for bowlers.

The New Zealand team of 8 will be joined by 13 supporters to the UK event in May. It is hoped that the World Cup fixture will be live streamed.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES:

NZIB takes this very seriously and we hope all Districts and Clubs do likewise. Each of your venues should have a simple plan to cover any emergencies. There is a Health and Safety template on the NZIB website to cover your events.

MATS AND BOWLS

There are plenty of Blue and Orange bowl sets available and NZIB is also holding a good supply of the traditional green woollen bowling mats. Contact National Office if you need more details.

CATHOLIC NATIONALS 2018

To be held in Christchurch Queens Birthday weekend 2nd - 4th June. [the weekend before the Nationals in Ashburton]. Open to all bowlers. For information and entry forms contact - BRIAN BREEN --tournament manager 033593374 or 0212226045 email grace.brian.breen@gmail.com.

COACHING / DEVELOPMENT ROLES

A new coaching plan has been put in place and the aim is for every club and district to appoint a specific person in these roles. Simple job descriptions are on the website. To oversee these positions NZIB wants to appoint five Regional Coach/Development persons in these paid part time roles. Contact National Office if you want more details.

UMPIRES

Over the past couple of years it is pleasing to report more National Umpires have been appointed and the standard throughout most of the Country has improved. Your District Secretary is now accepting registration for the next specified National Exam to be held any time in the week leading up to 6 May. Sample exam papers are on the website. Take a look and you will see they are not too daunting! Help the sport by becoming an Umpire --all bowlers should be looking to give something back to the game which many have enjoyed for so long.

