

**NEW ZEALAND INDOOR BOWLS**  
**UMPIRES NEWSLETTER NUMBER ONE**

**FEBRUARY- MARCH 2009**

Welcome to the 2009 Indoor Bowls season which we hope will be a busy and rewarding one for us all.

**From Viv Hudson- Umpires Representative on NZIB Executive.**

"It is good to start off 2009 with some positive results from around the country. I will be visiting Bush Ruahine, Masterton, Wanganui and Palmerston North to encourage players and measurers to become umpires. I have had some great responses from districts that have already held refresher courses. It is encouraging to know that many areas see the vision that the executive have to grow our sport. I am sure you will all agree that the open book policy will still mean the national examination will be challenging but we hope that you will be encouraged to sit and "give it a go".

It is great to see that Wairarapa are so keen and eager and I challenge other districts to see if they can match the seven interested people, for the examination. This is one way you can give back to the sport.

Communication is the key and all districts are requested to provide an email contact where possible so we can keep you informed quickly.

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN TIMARU**

There will be an opportunity for all qualified umpires to work at the Nationals and we encourage you to do so. Put your names forward in the programme, which will have a space for you to complete and help out. I would greatly appreciate any feedback for this.

Once again I would like to thank you for re-electing me to serve on executive for another year, as your representative. Feel free to email me with any questions at [vivs.place@clear.net.nz](mailto:vivs.place@clear.net.nz).

Viv Hudson

**NATIONAL EXAMINATION**

2009 begins a new era in Umpires examinations, with the introduction of the open book policy for the written examination. This will see the pass mark increase to 85% for this with the pass mark for the mat faults and measuring remaining at 80%. More umpires are required to increase this side of the sport and it will give you a better understanding of the game.

The examination this year takes place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May and registration and information has been sent to all Districts.

This is great for the sport and will encourage new umpires to come on board and enjoy the game in another way. Graham Gerrand will continue as the national examiner and he wishes us to include his remarks regarding the national examination in 2008. There is a misunderstanding of some crucial rules which just need some thinking about.

Graham reports that candidates over the years have tended to answer the same questions incorrectly. In every instance individuals have failed or passed with lower marks because of a poor grasp of the following Laws.

1. 80% of candidates over the last three years had a poor knowledge of Law 31 (b) that lays down the various conditions under which substitutes are permitted.
2. Law 6 (c) provides that the jack is bowled in accordance with the Laws, but by the player in the opposing team, and the finishing time signal sounds; the jack can be returned and re bowled by the correct player. It is surprising how many candidates say that the game is ended.
3. Only a minority of players is familiar with Law 30 (b) (iii) that concerns the disturbance of bowls by a neutral person or object after shots have been conceded, but before the score has been completed.
4. Law 22(f) covers the situation where the jack or bowl comes into contact with a dead bowl that has not been removed from the mat. 60% of candidates have declared that the end is dead.
5. Candidates tend to confuse the Laws (29 and 30) that relate to bowls burned in motion and burned at rest and get their answers mixed up. A simple rule could be to stop and ask oneself "Is the bowl in motion, or at rest?" when studying the question. Then take time to think about it.

With the coaching road show coming to an area near you please inquire about how you can get involved in umpiring.

### **MEASURERS**

There will still be measurers in the sport but it is hoped that with the new strategy in place more measurers will be encouraged to become full umpires.

### **LAWS OF THE GAME**

A reprint of the laws is being done, so if you wish to hand each of your club members a copy that is great. This will increase the knowledge of the laws and you will get better satisfaction for the sport. The books can be obtained from Ngaire at NZIB office at a small cost.

### **AMALGAMATION**

Districts are encouraged to look at amalgamation with your centre to ease the workload and to make it a team effort when it comes to umpires. You can still have small subcommittee meetings, to bounce things off each other and to deal with umpires matters. It has already worked well in a number of Centres and a representative, from the umpires would hopefully be appointed to their Centre Executive.

Best wishes for an enjoyable year helping the sport in your umpiring role.

NZIB can not do without you!