



President's Message – We are all in this together

Firstly, on behalf of all bowlers, we must thank and acknowledge those in our health services that are at the front of our countries battle against COVID-19. The Executive and I hope that everyone has managed to keep safe throughout this tough time and realise that we still have a long way to go. Until a vaccine has been found, all aspects of our lives will be affected with guidelines that will continue to change from day to day and week to week, whether it's our daily routines; education for our children or grand-children; being part of essential work; or the sports that we play.

NZIB Executive are looking at meeting in early May, and even this will take change, where we will be challenged to make decisions for the upcoming year. We will continue to keep ourselves up to date and informed of all new information from the Government, Ministry of Health, and Sport NZ. You can visit www.nzindoorbowls.co.nz/news/ for our latest updates when they become available.

It has always amazed me the passion that our members have for the game and that will be something that we all need to have when the time does come to roll out the mats again. Until then, please stay safe and look after yourselves.

- NZIB President, Michael Lawson

Be in to win!

Mat Blacks Captain Grant L'Ami has kindly donated his 2019 NZ shirt as a prize for NZIB's monthly quiz. Give it a crack by clicking the following link, and a perfect score will see your name in the draw! Be sure to get your answers in by midnight Sunday 3rd May, and send proof of your score to publicity@nzindoorbowls.co.nz.



<https://qz.app.do/nzib-april-quiz->

Staying Connected

Clubs around New Zealand have made a point to keep in touch with their members during the lockdown which has been outstanding.

Facebook, phone calls and messages have worked really well as methods of contact, but my favourite story comes from the Kerikeri Club in Northland.

John McKinney approached Pauline McKinley and voiced his thoughts about staying connected with everyone. This led to Pauline sending out a beautifully written email to the Kerikeri club members, as well as posting to the few without computers.

The letter included memories of her childhood; her experiences during a war; and the silver linings of currently being at home. She encouraged others to write a letter themselves and was "blown away by the response." Pauline received not just one email, but several from most of them, detailing what they've been up to and how they are coping. "From the tone of their letters, I gathered it had been the right thing to do."

Well done Kerikeri Bowls Club!



Keep your head in the game

A number of bowlers have been finding a way to keep their hand in the game either by squeezing a mat into their garage, or by dusting off their old carpet bowls. For those who don't have that option, Peter and Elaine Carnie have provided a platform to keep your head in the game! The Carnie duo set up a variety of bowls scenarios and asked the Facebook bowling community: "Which shot would you play?" That got a lot of people thinking and made for an interesting read too.

Family Corner – Meet the Popow's

The Popow family have always been tied to bowls through the parents, grandparents and great grandparents of Shaun and Jess, who took to outdoor bowls prior to having children.

It may have taken a backseat whilst raising a family, but Bradyn and Jorjye still showed an interest from a young age after watching their grandparents play.

Fast forward to the intermediate years, Bradyn jumped at the chance to put his name down for bowls and before long, the rest of the family followed suit. They are now proud Takaro Star Club members in Manawatu.

Outside of bowls they lead pretty exciting lives too; particularly 17 year old Bradyn who spends his summer Saturday nights as a speedway official! He also has multiple national medals for race walking, which earned him a spot in the NZ U16 team in 2017. Look out bowls world, here come the Popow's!



Left to Right: Jess, Bradyn, Shaun, Jorjye



Bradyn and Jorjye enjoying the miniature version from home

We're going on a bear hunt!

We're going to catch a big one!

No one has kept busier than Maverick the Bear over the past 30 days – he has been fishing, painting, fixing, baking and much, much more.

Without a doubt, this bear has been a giant source of smiles in the Bay of Plenty community and that is all thanks Lance Hansen and his wife Michelle

