



## President's Message

Well, we have managed to get towards the end of the season and have a number of national events taking place over the next few weeks. It has been a hard road to be where we are to say the least. There have been so many hurdles to overcome, with the main focus for the year being the safety of our members. We all should recognise and thank everyone that has put so much work into our game this year, from clubs through to districts.

This hasn't been the perfect year by far for our sport. But during the times I haven't been able to make it onto the mats, I have enjoyed seeing others around the country playing and enjoying themselves. It has been a welcomed distraction from everything else going on.

There have been some exceedingly difficult decisions made this year – none of which have been made lightly – so it is disappointing to see some of the adverse comments doing the rounds on social media. I am a great fan of free speech and do love to see several members being so passionate about the way the game is run. I am looking forward to seeing you all at this year's AGM in Wellington where these views can be discussed at an appropriate time and venue.

This week sees the Junior Singles along with the Secondary Schools Singles and Pairs being played. It is the first year that the runner ups in a district can attend, and it is pleasing to see a number of districts take this up.

We understand that this won't be the fairy tale event that some of our members would have liked, and hopefully we don't have a repeat from last year, where one of our entrants missed the event due to his plane being cancelled the morning of the singles.

The Junior Singles will be live streamed onto Sky Sport Next channel with links for this up on our Facebook and website – details of which we will have to you shortly.

Well done also to all the zone winners from around the country. I wish you all the best for your up and coming events. Additionally, the North and South Island teams will be named on August 29<sup>th</sup>. I wish all those that have nominated the best of luck for the announcement.

– Michael Lawson, NZIB President

## Exciting weekend ahead

This year's NZ Junior Singles field is made up of 29 competitors; a 50% increase compared to recent years, thanks to NZIB's initiative which allows runner ups to also attend. Had Auckland not been in Level 3, two more juniors could have competed.

There are some impressive young bowlers in the line-up including Nathan Trowell, Nikita Blair, Jordan Keene, Shawn Perry and Sam Anderson, among others.

Many of them will continue their bowls on Sunday and Monday for the NZ Secondary School Singles and Pairs events. Good luck to all involved and have a fantastic weekend.



## Test your knowledge!

Q1: Who won the inaugural NZ Junior Singles?

Q2: How many juniors have won it back to back?

Q3: Who is the youngest ever National Singles Champion?

Q4: Who is the youngest ever Welch Winner?

Q5: Which age group tournament can players enter once they reach 18 years of age?



Zone Two Singles Finalists: A real mix of contestants – how great is our sport!

## Bowlers in the Zone

The NZ Henselite Singles and Mixed Pairs contestants have been found, with just Zone One left to play. Both events are shaping up to be competitive ones – congratulations to all winners who have made it through so far.

## “Wheelie need my independence back, chairs!”

North Wellington's Liz Verhoeven was introduced to bowls as an eight-year-old through family ties and was instantly hooked. By fifth form in school, she was choosing bowls over the ball. Losing close family saw her drift away from the game, but she was ready to come back in 2015 after having an impromptu roll up at a golf club. Her husband Nico signed up alongside her.

Unfortunately, Liz has been losing mobility since 2017 and ultimately had to stop playing last year, though she continues to help with administration duties. A specific wheelchair and some car modifications would make all the difference in Liz's day-to-day life, and of course get her back on the bowls mat. But with doctors unable to provide a diagnosis funding has been hard to come by, and so Liz's Pairs Funroller was set up. You can support this bowling family by entering tonight's tournament (Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August) or by donating to the givealittle page if you are able to. Liz, Nico and their little girl will be beyond grateful.



[https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/wheelie-need-my-beep-independence-back-chairs?fbclid=IwAR0JGID0\\_NKTvX61fGBJymRj7Ce6llmR3DcR3RRFhuCoSLF3E3KaLX5\\_fko](https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/wheelie-need-my-beep-independence-back-chairs?fbclid=IwAR0JGID0_NKTvX61fGBJymRj7Ce6llmR3DcR3RRFhuCoSLF3E3KaLX5_fko)

