



President's Message –

Hi to all bowlers. I hope everyone has had a safe and festive Christmas and New Year period. I see on social media that many clubs have or are about to open for the 2021 season, and many bowlers are looking forward to the events held around the country over Easter. While we are only at the start of the season, it is still important to have some focus on the future and what our sport will look like in ten years. You will hear me talk about the sport being at a crossroads. I truly believe that if we carry on as we are and don't take the steps to safeguard our sport, we may not have a sport to worry about.

The executive is always looking towards the future and recognise that we are all in the same boat. No one seems to have the 'magic bean' to grow our sport, yet we still appear to not want change, or change that will cost us it seems. If we do not try to make changes, the cost to our sport will be greater than a few dollars.

NZIB have introduced a 1-5 year singles event following the success of the 1-5 year Pairs, and have again secured access to the Sky Sport Next platform. We look forward to working with many of our members, especially the team from Matside, to ensure we produce a high quality product. As always, I look forward to seeing you on the mats.

– Michael Lawson, NZIB President

Definition of a Bowler...



A creature who tires easily at home. Particularly weakened by the sight of a vacuum cleaner, rake, broom, or paintbrush, but who amazingly enough, can put 10 hours on a bowling green without any sign of fatigue!

Source: *The Lawn Bowls Dictionary* by Keith Dunstan, 1986

Dates to think about:

April 30th – Island Champs and Nationals entries close

May 2nd – Umpires exam – encourage your members to become an umpire or measurer

September 11th / 12th – New Zealand 1-5 Pairs and Singles Finals
(The 1-5 year singles is an exciting addition to the national calendar - get behind new members and give them the confidence to enter both events!)

Roadshows

Roadshows will be proceeding this year for those districts that indicated their interest last year, and also to other districts who would like to be involved.

More information will be sent out by Helen. Your district visits will be tailored to the areas you would like help with. This could be around Administration (funding applications, accounting systems, constitution updates, hall controllers, and so on); or Development (coaching, obtaining new members, retaining members).

These roadshows will be open to ALL members but at least two from each club if possible. NZIB look forward to meeting with you. See you on the road!

Napier brewing the next generation of bowlers

Hawkes Bay bowler Kirstyn Harrison has been working at Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Ara Hou for 22 years. Last year she was approached by the school principal and PE teacher, Wi Pohatu and Matua Jorian, who were keen to introduce a new sport to the tamariki. Naturally, indoor bowls came to mind.

A two-week programme was put in place for all children to take part in. Kirstyn, Matua Jorian, and Robert "Buzz" Abraham took four classes of 18 students a day, teaching the basics of bowls – stance, grip, bias, and delivery. The junior classes bowled to cones and cards while the senior classes bowled to the box. It has been an exciting learning curve for the students and staff alike and has left them wanting to learn more. The school are looking forward to continuing the two-week programme in Terms 2, 3 and 4.



Robert and Kirstyn will also be following up with an after school indoor bowls club to harness the keen interest. They are expecting 24 young bowlers on Monday afternoon, and perhaps there will be a couple of young entries at the Easter tournament! Keep an eye out and support them where you can.

A big thank you to Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Ara Hou for trying your hand at indoor bowls, and to Kirstyn and Robert for supporting them. NZIB wish you all the best.

NZIB Website

Are your district and club details up to date? Take a look at <https://www.nzindoorbowls.co.nz/districts-and-clubs/>
Please email any changes to Graham Low at graham.low@outlook.co.nz so he can make the updates.