

# NZIB Newsletter – May 2021



## President's Message – “Stay Safe Everyone”

This has been something we have heard daily for the past 12 months or so, but it is a phrase that we should be looking to achieve every day. NZIB Executive have been looking at what we are doing and what policies (or lack of) we must make sure we have in place to all “stay safe”. One area of concern is our youngest and most vulnerable group - our juniors. Each year we run events and have coaching programs for school aged players, yet we don't have anything in place that ensures their safety.

Like everyone else in our game, I have taken for granted that we are a family-based sport and therefore we haven't needed a policy, but I would be more concerned to hear of people who are against NZIB having a policy.

Sport NZ, along with our own Government, (and I would hope all our members) expect us to be following guidelines which are set out in documents such as “The Vulnerable Children's Act 2014”. Our new policy will be in line with this Act and we will be looking to follow other major sport codes in our country to ensure we get it right.

Even though our policy will still be in draft form at our July meeting, we expect that all districts that are placing members into positions of authority would be making sure that no questions can be raised around their suitability. NZIB will look to task a sub-committee to be the first point of contact for any issues raised – there will be a zero tolerance for any breach of the policy by a District and consequences will result from any breach.

For now, “stay safe,” and I am looking forward to seeing you on the mats over the coming months.

– Michael Lawson, NZIB President

## President Profiles:

### Greg Veale – Manawatu

1. *What year did you start bowling, and for which club?*  
1996 – Ashhurst Indoor Bowling Club
2. *Who were your role models in those early years?*  
Paul Jones from Ashhurst
3. *How do you spend your time away from the mat?*  
Visiting family or fishing or not working.
4. *Who do you most enjoy playing bowls with?*  
Family – or anyone who accepts a bad bowl as I never intend to play them but it happens!
5. *Any advice for aspiring bowlers?*  
“Just keep going, stay calm, and never give up.”

## Health and Safety

A friendly reminder for clubs and districts to remain vigilant with COVID and good hygiene practice – clean the bowls and ensure you have hand sanitiser in your halls.

For all Centres that are hosting national events, NZIB will be checking that all Health and Safety forms have been completed prior and during the competition. A copy of these forms can be found at [www.nzindoorbowls.co.nz](http://www.nzindoorbowls.co.nz) and will need to be emailed to Helen Stallard – [office@nzindoorbowls.co.nz](mailto:office@nzindoorbowls.co.nz) – to be put on file.

## Shake-up in Ashburton

Like most districts, Ashburton has been facing a decline in entries for their local championships. With nothing to lose by making a few changes, they did just that. Here are some examples:

- **Individual entries for ALL championships.** That's right – teams are drawn on the day. This has seen a significant increase in numbers. Bowlers are enjoying the chance to mix it with the representatives, seeing it as a chance to develop their game. Others have simply found it easier to put in a single entry as opposed to making up a team.
- **Playing mid-week.** Mid-week tournaments were having a much higher turnout, so it made sense to try the championship pairs and triples on a Thursday night. Section play will be played over one night, with post-section to commence the following week. Even those who don't qualify will have the chance to play in a separate drawn event, meaning there is still a crowd in the hall when the final is being played.
- **Championship Master Singles.** Ashburton members flocked to the 2018 National Masters events, yet their own local championships didn't have the same appeal. Ashburton implemented their own Masters Singles event in 2019, with success. It runs alongside the Open Championship Singles and both count towards a Centre Gold Star.

It's great to see districts taking action. Some ideas may work while others may not, but what counts is being open to giving them a go. Well done Ashburton.



## St Paul's goes from strength to strength

Canterbury's St Paul's Club has a lot to celebrate of late – the successful membership drive early last year; being awarded NZIB's Club of the Year for 2020; maintaining new members post-COVID; and most recently their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

What better way to mark this milestone than at the club's fundraiser – otherwise known as the BJ Preston Memorial Triples tournament. It already has the reputation of being a well-run event with great prizes and a friendly atmosphere, so it is no surprise to see the hall packed with 32 teams.

I would like to acknowledge Carmel Sullivan, MT Hooper and their team of helpers who put in a tremendous amount of effort to ensure the continued success of this event.

Congratulations to the winners – Gary Ashby, John Grey, and new bowler Norm Ellis; and to the plate winners Simon Thomas, skipping two new bowlers, Gerard Anngow and Mary Lye.

