



## President's Message –

What a great few weeks we have had. The Island Championships at Rotorua were once again a very well-run event. Special thank you to the Matside team for a great job of live streaming the finals. It must be pointed out that this group of very keen bowlers do this more for the love of the game than any financial gain. It is my hope that we keep working with Matside and grow our relationship for many years to come.

This year's nationals held in Blenheim were again a successful and enjoyable week. Thank you to all the umpires that gave up their spare time to help make the event a success, and of course, a big thank you to the many helpers from Marlborough district. I hope you have all had a well-earned rest since.

One of my highlights was the music being played that I believe 99.6% of the players enjoyed. I will admit that we didn't always have the volume or choice of song right, but I am sure that we will all agree it was a great and refreshing addition that we will continue to work on moving forward.

Most districts will be focused on the upcoming zone playoffs in the first week of July and of course most selectors around the country will be finalising their teams for the Paterson zone matches later in the month. Good luck to all for these events.

On a personal note, I don't think I have seen the final results from Uncle Dave at Matside on who was the closest with their national predictions? Take care and keep safe everyone.

– Michael Lawson, NZIB President

## President's Profiles:

### Mathew Begg – Central Otago

1. *What year did you start playing, and for which club?*  
1979 – Pukeawa Club
2. *Who were your role models in those early years?*  
Jack Dippie and Bob Bell
3. *What advice do you have for aspiring bowlers?*  
Just draw and have fun
4. *What do you consider your greatest achievement?*  
Winning the Henselite Singles (2004)
5. *How do you spend your time away from the mat?*  
Playing tennis and mountain biking

## A win to the juniors

Matthew, Hunter, Beth and Finn are four juniors who have all stemmed from the AIMS Games, currently play Secondary School bowls, and are members of the Mount Junior Club in Tauranga. This club has been affiliated to NZIB for six years now and has recently recorded its first win on the centre stage in the Graded Fours.



They defeated Mat Black Paul Smith on a count back of ends. Dedicated junior supporter, Alison Cowan, credited their win and great bowling to "regular attendance, joining adult clubs and entering competitions." Hard work certainly pays off – congratulations guys!

## Enormous talent in Poverty Bay

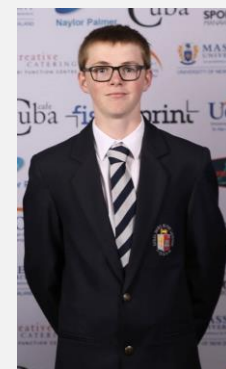
Poverty Bay have an incredible junior programme which is not only great for the future of the centre, but at present, too. Seven juniors were selected to represent the centre's top 16 in the Hone Trophy earlier this year. They played Tauranga, Thames Valley, and King Country and finished an honourable second place. In fact, four juniors made up one team and had a combined age of 58!



Top scorers were 11-year-old Adam Rickard and 15-year-old Dylan Foster with six wins from eight games. Mat Black Paul Smith congratulated Poverty Bay for the time and support given to the "outstanding" youngsters and was "impressed by their great attitude temperaments."

## National Umpire at 18

Manawatu's Bradyn Popow is a keen, young bowler who made the commendable decision to become a national umpire. The motivation behind this was to be confident in his knowledge of the rules and in his measuring skills as a general player. Let this be an inspiration to all bowlers! Well done, Bradyn.



## 97 and counting...

Meet Bruce Smart, valued member of the Gisborne Cosmopolitan Indoor Bowling Club. At "97.6" years of age Bruce remains an avid bowler and shows no sign of slowing down. He brings with him "a lot of wit, and is always up for a good joke." What a guy!

