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HENSELITE TROPHY BACK HOME

The symbol of international indoor bowls competition between New Zealand and Australia has been recaptured by the Mat Blacks. Australia has held the trophy since 2009. NZ lost it at Broken Hill in New South Wales and then saw the Aussies defend it at Balclutha in South Otago two years later. This time the tables were turned, very convincingly, with New Zealand taking out the first day 16-6, going further ahead 35-9 on the second day, and completing the rout on the third day to make the final score 55-11. Past President Trevor Rayner called the Mat Blacks performance "focussed and disciplined". He said a feature of the New Zealand effort was their hard work, discipline and support for each other, on and off the mat. Without doubt another reason for the success was the professionalism Team Manager Pat Hoult bought to the team and the large number of NZ supporters who attended and made themselves heard!

Fiona Wilson won the women's singles ; Ashley Diamond the men's singles; Fiona Wilson, Julie Thomas the women's pairs; Grant l'Ami, Ashley Diamond the men's pairs; Blair Spicer, Sheree Holmes the mixed 8-bowl pairs; Simon Thomas, Maureen Pruden mixed 6-bowl pairs; Lois Randall, Linda McCurdy, Gina Owen women's triples; John Zittersteijn, Grant Rayner, Gary Low men's triples Lois Randall, Linda McCurdy, Sheree Holmes, Gina Owen women's fours; Grant l'Ami, John Zittersteijn, Grant Rayner, Gary Low men's fours; Simon Thomas, Blair Spicer, Julie Thomas, Maureen Pruden lost the mixed fours.



NATIONALS

Not long to go now to the 64th Lion Foundation National Champs being held in Rotorua for the 8th time. A total of 1063 players have entered, with 635 in the singles, 365 in the pairs, 240 in the triples and 180 fours. It's the first time the Rotorua Energy Events Centre will be used for Indoor Bowls.

All of last year's champions will be back to defend their titles - Joseph Zino (HV) in the singles, Steve Fisher & Pam Cohen(Ak) in the pairs, Grant l'Ami, Mike & Lorraine Phipps (Tg) in the triples & David Archer, Maureen Pruden, Joy Archer and Candace Archer (Wk) in the



Mat Blacks team captain, Grant l'Ami victoriously lifts the Henselite trophy!

OBITUARY

The Nationals & the South Island champs this year will be without the very friendly and keen competitor South Otago's Murray Grant who lost his battle with cancer in January. Murray will be fondly remembered by us all as a South Island, Masters and Representative bowler but mostly as a good friend to all with ability to tell a good story or write an entertaining poem if the occasion arose.

Well done to NZ team member Grant Rayner who designed the Mat Blacks logo that has been received so well.



NORTH ISLAND & NZ SECONDARY SCHOOLS EVENTS

Tauranga IBA will be hosting the North Island Secondary Schools event in the school holidays 22-23 July. This will be a good lead up event for the NZ Secondary Schools which follows on from the Junior Singles in Lower Hutt, 1-2 September. We are hopeful that the event will continue to grow as the students love it. Make sure you encourage those students in your district to attend. Your district has copies of both these entry forms which must be signed off from the school. Information is on the NZ Secondary School website www.nzsssc.org.nz

UMPIRES NEWS

Twelve candidates sat the 2013 Umpire's examination this year and we are pleased to announce that NZIB now has 5 new National Umpires. Congratulations go to Linda Boyd, Manawatu; Robert Lewis, North Otago and from Otago Beverley Paterson, Marilyn Irvine and Stephne Joyce. Although we can't give them credit for the great NZ Mat Blacks victory over Australia well done to Jan Low, Southland and Roy McCurdy Waikato who officiated so well at the event.

◆ THE NEXT BEST THING TO NO TV COVERAGE

Due to increasing costs the Nationals will not be on TV this year. However Alex Reed from Tauranga has plans to video all the semi-finals and finals. Within a couple of weeks of the event he will edit and upload to youtube and the links will be made available on the website. Remember www.nzindoorbowls.co.nz is the place to find all up to date Indoor Bowls news.

◆ MARATHON EFFORT

National Coach Craig Whiteside recently held a marathon session at Whakatane Intermediate. He had 490 pupils over four days!

◆ SOUTH ISLAND CHAMPS IN INVERCARGILL

This Queen's Birthday weekend has attracted 115 pairs, 75 triples and 60 fours- good luck to you all & enjoy Southland's hospitality.

◆ ACADEMY AND MASTERS TEAMS

This event has proven to be one of the highlights of the National Championships but disappointingly the Southern selectors will have a very hard job this year as nominations from the south are so few. This has caused a delay in the announcement of the teams which should be available by end of the month.

