

# NZ INDOOR BOWLS NEWS

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The South Island Championships hosted by South Otago at Balclutha and the Nationals hosted by Tauranga at Mt Maunganui are sure to be the focus for many bowlers in June. All the best to those who have entered these two events.

Michael Lawson, assisted by Nigel Warnes held coaching workshops for coaches in Nelson and Blenheim in April. Both were well attended and established a format for future sessions. They are hoping to have another in the South Island this year and then roll into the North Island next year. Any district that would be interested in holding a coaching school for coaches should approach either Michael or Nigel or advise National Office that you are interested in being involved.

The North Island team will be touring the South Island in August. All those districts that are hosting the team are encouraged to look for opportunities to promote the game while the North Island team is in town. Any activity either at a club, school or with the public will be considered to help promote the game.

Your feedback on what the executive are doing to maintain the sport would be appreciated. Without your input we can only assume that what we are doing or offering is appreciated by all bowlers.

See you on the mat soon.

**Barry Chapman, President**

## 2016 NATIONALS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Not long now before the Nationals make their return to Tauranga for the first time since 2008. The championships will be played at the ASB Arena at Mount Maunganui from the 11th to the 18th of June.

Nearly 1200 entries have been received for the eight different events, which is well up on the 730 entrants in Timaru last year.

The singles winner last year, Avon Compton of North Wellington will be back in defence of his title, along with Pairs winners Grant l'Ami and Mike Phipps, entered through Tauranga.

Grant l'Ami will be chasing his 12th national title, having added his 10th and 11th in Timaru last year. He will be the first recipient of a newly introduced Gold Star for 10 titles.

The triples winners, Grant Rayner, Paul Psaila and Teri Anderson, entered through Auckland, are in the field, and also the fours defending champions Grant l'Ami, Mike Phipps, Paul Midgley and Lorraine Phipps.

The Masters Singles winner last year, Ray Christensen, from South Canterbury is not travelling to Tauranga, but the runner-up Henry Pratt, from Tauranga is entered.

The Masters Pairs winners, Ron and Rae Inglis from Golden Bay are entered along with the runners-up Barry and Jenny Chapman from Waikato.

Masters triples winners Stewart and Jean Stratford, with Chris Guy, from Southland will defend their title, as will the Masters Fours winners, Fay Donaldson, Margaret Phillips, Elaine Williams and Margaret Bunt.

Final entries are:

Open Singles 354;  
Pairs 215;  
Triples 140;  
Fours 110

Masters Singles 170;  
Pairs 105;  
Triples 50;  
Fours 45

**Total number of entries  
1177**



## CIBA HALL UPDATE

At this stage it is anticipated that the Kearneys Rd venue will be officially opened sometime prior to Canterbury hosting the Zone event for Paterson Trophy in mid-July. What a relief it will be for the local administrators and bowlers who have suffered so much through the earthquake and then fire. The new venue will then be well tested with the North v South Island clash being held there in August and the prestigious Welch Trophy a month later.

★★★★★★★★★★★★

All bowlers would be saddened by the recent passing of Waikato Indoor Bowler **Arthur Bettridge**.

His Record on the National and Waikato Stage was outstanding winning the 1988 NZ Mixed Fours with Graham Membery, Sadie Middlemiss and his wife Gwyneth and has been well placed in many Nationals. He had a Welch Trophy Gold Star from 1988 – having been in five successful Waikato Welch Trophy teams.

Arthur along with his wife Gwyneth did much to raise the profile and standing of women bowlers in the Waikato and surrounding areas when they donated the Bettridge Shield for competition between Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Counties and Thames Valley in 1990. It was the first Ladies only representative tournament in New Zealand. Arthur will be sadly missed and our condolences go to Gwyneth and Raeline and his family.



## NZ MIXED FOURS AND MIXED PAIRS EVENTS

The search has begun to find the country's top Mixed Fours and Pairs combination. Some districts have already found their champions and others will be doing so over the coming weeks. The zone play-offs finals are set down for 2-3 July with the 52nd National Mixed Fours final and the inaugural Mixed Pairs in Lower Hutt 23-24 July.

## SOUTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Host district South Otago are ready to host the Island Championships in Balclutha and have advised that the number of entries received for the Johnstone Electrical Pairs was 115; the Balclutha Subway Triples 65 and Fours 55. We are sure all visiting bowlers will enjoy the event and Southern hospitality.

## SPORT TARANAKI ROLE:

Sport Taranaki had advised they would be discontinuing the Indoor Bowls advisor's role currently held by Michelle Watt. This was no reflection on the work being done by Michelle but a change in Sport Taranaki's direction as required by Sport NZ. NZIB wishes to continue with this role and capitalise on the investment that has been made. Michelle will be offered a revised job description/ contract focussing on the volunteer base and not completely on delivery. This new arrangement if accepted will allow possible expansion to the role.

## REPORT FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

The self-funded trip by Trevor and Linda Rayner, Avon Compton and Nigel Warnes (accompanied by wife Sandy) can be considered a success. Entering a totally foreign environment playing on 30 ft. mats of similar pace to the mats used in International matches against Australia and which had a block in the middle to stop run shots and blocks on the back edges of the delivery area to stop bowls being delivered outside of it, the New Zealanders improved with every game they played over the three days. They narrowly missed qualifying in the Rinks losing 1 game to the defending champions and another on the last bowl.

The Singles played over 9 ends had no qualifying and we're a straight knockout. Trevor lost in the 1st round, Avon and Linda in the second round and Nigel in the third. In the Pairs which were played with 2 bowls each Trevor and Linda qualified top of their section and Avon and Nigel qualified as a best runner up to make the top 32 teams. Avon and Nigel lost on the last end in the semi-final to the eventual winners. The general feeling is that NZ has bowlers who can easily adapt to the English Carpet Bowls game which is beginning to gain a foothold in other European and Scandinavian countries, particularly Norway where it has strong government support as a sport which older people can participate in. Discussions have commenced with the English Carpet Bowls Association with a view to an official New Zealand team visiting England on a tour which would include participation in the "Festival of Bowls Week at Potters Resort"

## WELL DONE BETTY BARLTROP

Did you see Betty on Hayden Jones' TV One Programme Good Sort last month after she had been nominated by the Department of Corrections? Betty has been visiting Christchurch's Rolleston Prison for the past 27 years as a Salvation Army volunteer. She started going in with her husband George to play bowls once a month, did not miss a day for 16 years and continued after George passed away. Betty says she treats them as bowlers, not prisoners and makes sure they know the door is always open at the Salvation Army on release. She plans to keep volunteering as long as she can see prisoners making changes for the better. As well as this Betty finds time as a Volunteer coach for the Blind Bowls!



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