



From the President

Well by now, most Districts and players are under way and hopefully enjoying the start of a new season. This I hope will be the season that we can start to turn our sport around and encourage new players and members alike to join in what we know is a great sport. To this end I would like to challenge you all to consider bringing someone new into the game (surely you all know somebody you could bring along).

We are trying to introduce a new up to date Database system this year with the aim to improve more direct communication with all those who have an important role to play in our sport. If you don't already know, all Clubs and Districts have been sent out forms to update and if these haven't been done could you please do it as soon as possible. The information we are looking for is only names and e-mail addresses and won't be used by anyone else other than NZIB. We hope to be able to keep everyone up to date on anything interesting that is happening in other

areas and any new Idea's that may be working in another District/Club. Send through any information regarding national events or whatever anyone may think is something required by NZIB.

It sounds like Ashburton is putting together a great Nationals so I hope you are all busy putting together teams for this, remember there is the Main event and the Masters event. At this event there is also the North V's South Academy and Masters Events (a great chance for players to promote themselves for higher honours). There will be a new event this year which will be the District challenge. Your district will need to select four players from each District to play in this. It will be in set format (along the lines of the Aussie outdoor competition that is televised) and be straight knockout. The rules will be sent out soon.

With that I would just like wish you all good bowling for the season and hope to catch up with you all soon.

Nigel Warnes, NZIB's President

WANTED DISTRICT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT /COACHES?

Has your district appointed a person yet as their contact details are needed so NZIB can communicate with them direct. To oversee these positions NZIB wants to then appoint 4 or 5 Regional roles which will be funded. Please contact National Office if you are interested or know of anyone who is.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER SPREADING HER WINGS

Michelle Watt who has been working in the Taranaki/Whanganui region recently got a request from Northland to come and show them how their district can prosper by energising their clubs, getting involved with schools and their Regional Sport Trust. Michelle has been encouraged by what she has seen and will report on her visit next newsletter. Your Executive is keen to have this sort of activity flowing through all districts.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF INTER CLUB VISITS?

If your club's struggling for attendance, how about a social visit to another club. Perhaps the host club could provide the supper, and the visitors take the prizes. If you're not into away visits, what can you do to make club nights more appealing, to keep members wanting to come. Think outside the square and you might come up with some good ideas. If so, and they go down well, pass them on.

NZ TEAM IS OFF TO THE UK

Just over three years ago Executive Member Trevor Rayner was doing some research to expand the opportunities to play Indoor Bowls Internationally and noticed that the English Carpet Bowls Association had a Festival of Bowls week each year at Potters Resort at Hopton-on-Sea in Norfolk.

He contacted the ECBA President Mike Walker to see if International players would be welcome at the event.

The response was positive and after exploratory visits in 2016 and 2017 by Nigel Warnes, Trevor and Linda Rayner and Avon Compton a NZ team will compete this year against England and Norway. Unfortunately Sweden and Denmark have withdrawn from the International.

The fours and pairs are played with qualifying rounds and the Singles are straight knock out.

The ECBA Festival of Bowls and World Cup will be played from Tuesday 15 May to Thursday 17 May

Team 1: Grant l'Ami (North Taranaki), Avon Compton (North Wellington), Gary Low (Southland), Teri Anderson (Waikato); **Team 2:** Ashley Diamond (Upper Hutt Valley), Paul Wright (Auckland), Sheree Holmes (Upper Hutt Valley) and Suzanne Mackie (Southland).

In the Pairs at the ECBZ event the combinations are Avon Compton & Paul Wright; Ashley Diamond & Sheree Holmes; Grant l'Ami and Suzanne Mackie and Gary Low and Teri Anderson. All players are playing Singles.

In addition there are 13 supporters attending the event of whom eight will be playing in the Festival of Bowls events.

This is an exciting development and we wish the team every success.

We are hoping that the events will be streamed here in New Zealand so bowlers can get to feel part of this investment which hopefully will lead to more opportunities of promoting the game in the future.

NOMINATIONS FOR ISLAND TEAMS

This year it will be the North Island Team touring the South Island in August. Nomination forms have been sent to districts and close on 18 May. There will be an added opportunity to make one of the Island teams as those representing NZ in the UK next month will not be considered. It will also be one of the last opportunities to impress the Selectors before the NZ Team is selected to play Australia in Invercargill next year. All indoor bowls supporters are welcome to go on this tour and it does cover most of the Island.

The land cost will be approximately \$1,100 for the ten days covering travel, accommodation, dinners and the odd lunch including Test Day. Contact National Office if you require any more details.

DO YOU WANT YOUR OWN COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER?

It is easy to get one- just go to www.nzindoorbowls.co.nz and download a copy now. If you do not have a computer I am sure you know someone who has- even one of your club mates might like to copy for all your club members!

A copy should already be going to all clubs if the right information has been provided for the National Office database.

LAST CHANCE FOR NATIONAL AND ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRIES

April 20 is the closing date for entries to be with your District Secretary so get your entry in quickly. The organising districts Ashburton and Bay of Plenty have been working hard to put on good events so please support them. Try and introduce some of your newer club members to the wonderful experience of attending one of these larger events.

Nomination forms for the Academy and Masters fixture to be held at the Nationals have also gone out to districts so make sure your Selectors are aware if you are keen to be considered. It is always a struggle for the Southern team selectors in particular as nominations are few. Make their job easier and participate in one of the fun nights of the Championships.

NATIONAL UMPIRES EXAM

The National Examination can be held anytime in the week leading up to 6 May and registrations close 13 April. Hopefully your district has offered some training for all umpires and measurers this season and remember samples of the likely examination paper is easily found on the website. Last year it was great to see many younger bowlers passing this examination and making themselves available at the National and Island Championships.

