

WORLD BOWLS HEADS UP



Newsletter of World Bowls

November 2015



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Action Our Watchword

Since attaining office the Board, and its officers, have not shirked their responsibilities in addressing the problems and priorities facing them. Harmony and stability have been restored, and our responsibility for good governance remains as strong as ever. However, we at World Bowls also felt that we needed to fulfil a more effective and influential role in developing and growing our sport worldwide - albeit within the resources available.

ACTION was required and that is now very much the 'watchword' of World Bowls

Hence we produced a Development Strategy and initiated a complete revamp of our web site - both attempting to remedy the deficiencies and problems that are hindering the development of our sport in so many nations.

You will see from the list of initiatives and activity outlined in this newsletter that World Bowls is true to its 'word' and initial progress in implementing our Strategy has been excellent. When I had the privilege of being elected to the position of President, I stated then that the lack of resources should not deter a positive and confident approach being adopted by World Bowls. Our global bowls community boasts an

'abundance of riches' in terms of expertise, experience and vision far beyond monetary value. World Bowls has set its stall out to utilise this valuable resource - world class coaches and umpires along with resource rich MNAs - namely Bowls Australia, Bowls Scotland, and Bowls New Zealand - have all rallied to assist with the delivery of initiatives created through the Development Strategy. Thank you all. Full use too is being made of the knowledge and skills of the Board and officers of World Bowls, who are all determined to make a positive difference.

In an increasingly fractious world it is all too easy to be negative and critical. However, I hope that we have demonstrated through this message and newsletter that World Bowls is making a distinct effort to improve the status and performance of our sport worldwide. It is a huge task and there are no short term fixes. Effective action is underway but we still need all the support we can attract. As such, we will be contacting a wide range of relevant individuals, organisations and companies. I urge everyone who has a vested interest in the wellbeing of our great sport to support us, and contribute in whatever constructive way they are able.

John Bell - President

Events

World Bowls are delighted to announce

- St John's Park in New South Wales Australia has been awarded 2017 and 2018 Champion of Champions
- 2016 & 2017 World Cup has been agreed for Warilla Bowls and Recreation Club, New South Wales, Australia.
- 2019 Asia Pacific Championships and 2020 World Championships will be held on the Gold Coast, Australia
- The 2015 Atlantic Championships in Paphos, Cyprus and 2015 Asia Pacific Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand, which are

qualifying events for the 2016 World Championships, are nearly upon us. We look forward to these events showcasing the best the world has to offer as all participating nations strive to qualify for that ultimate prize.

- The 2015 World Singles Champion of Champions at Club Helensvale, Queensland, Australia will also commence on 16th November. Readers can follow all the results on the World Bowls website.
- Brunei are hosting the 2016 Asian Lawn Bowls Championships & Asian U25 Singles Championships - commencing late January 2016.

WORLD BOWLS MEETING THE CHALLENGE

The Sport of Bowls in Commonwealth Games until at least 2030

The Commonwealth Games Federation has recently announced that Lawn Bowls (including Para Lawn Bowls) will remain a compulsory sport in the Games Sports Programme up to and including the 2030 Games. This follows a very successful Lawn Bowls event at Kelvingrove, Glasgow in 2014. It also follows telling contributions from World Bowls' Technical Delegate to the Commonwealth Games - Kerry Clark OBE, and its Chief Executive - Gary Smith. Both have built up a very productive and cordial relationship with the CGF, which has undoubtedly assisted in achieving this marvellous outcome.

On receiving this welcome news, Brian Sneag, President of International Bowls for the Disabled said:-

"On behalf of my Board, my members and all persons with disability I extend sincere thanks to the CGF as well as World Bowls Limited for all their efforts to ensure that Lawn Bowls is a sport that may be played and enjoyed by everyone individually, as a family and including persons with disabilities or impairments."

Development Strategy - Up and Running

- Organisation of a European Development Seminar (30th April – 1st May 2016) for all bowling nations in EUROPE. The event, coordinated by Regional Director – Andy Ewens, will deliver an exciting programme of topics, which are relevant to the promotion and development of the sport of bowls in Europe
 - World Bowls met with a French delegation in April and August to progress the establishment of a national federation for FRANCE
 - Presentation by Regional Director to European Bowls Union -October 2015
 - Delivery of a week long coaching and development package for COOK ISLANDS This engaged with 115 bowlers and national administrators. – July 2015
 - 7 day training camp delivered for NIUE including meeting with the Minister of Sport to discuss how best to develop the sport in the future – September 2015
 - Training camps and assessments undertaken over a four week period for FIJI. Delivery of a subsequent Development Plan containing recommendations for the professional preparation of national team members, recruitment of new bowlers and the future successful development of the sport. – October 2015
 - Guidance and development advice provided for SAMOA during the recent Commonwealth Youth Games.- September 2015
 - Preliminary discussions have been instigated, by Regional Director Karen Murphy, regarding the formation of an OCEANIA Bowls Association. This is seen as an effective means of raising the profile of our sport both within the region, and in the individual countries involved. The higher the profile the better the opportunities for development will be. There is strong support for this initiative.
 - Umpire Training course delivered in CYPRUS in preparation for the Atlantic Championships – September 2015
 - Umpire assessments undertaken at HONG KONG Classic – November 2015
 - Attendance of World Bowls Chief Executive at the ASIAN Lawn Bowls Federation meeting of their Board of Governors. Discussions will focus on administration infrastructures, events matters, and the future development of our sport in Asia – January 2016
 - A meeting between World Bowls President and Chief Executive and officials of the Bowling Federation of INDIA has been confirmed for April next year. Discussions will focus on the best ways to help the national association establish and progress a detailed strategy to strengthen its infrastructures and procedures and to develop the sport throughout India. – April 2016
 - Provision of 'New Age' bowls equipment for MALAWI and BOTSWANA – January 2015
 - The Regional Director – John McArdle - is overseeing the transition of Zone 6 bowling nations to the Bowls Confederation of the African States. This is in order to strengthen its position and to respond positively to the changes in the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa – October 2015
- * World Bowls would like to sincerely thank the following for their support for the implementation of its Development Strategy:
MNAs - Bowls Australia; Bowls New Zealand; and Bowls Scotland;
Coaches – Robbie Dobbins, Kay Moran and Blake Hopper, and Technical Officials – Roger Black and Alan Thornhill.

Launch of new Web Site

The Board of World Bowls is delighted to announce the imminent launch of its renovated web site www.worldbowls.com. It is geared to providing an attractive compendium of information and detail, which can act as a global 'reference point' for our sport. It is intended to enable bowlers worldwide to be informed about every key aspect of it. Importantly too they will learn about new exciting playing formats, examples of good practice, successful recruitment initiatives and promotional aids.

- Such is the importance of these features in developing our sport it is intended to build on this theme on the web site. As such any bowling body or club, who are engaging in any new ideas or playing practices (within the Laws of the Sport) which may promote and enhance our sport, are invited to send details to World Bowls so it may be shared on our web site.
- Equally, unique photos too which will interest and entertain our global audience are welcome to be added to our intended gallery section.

Finance

World Bowls finances are stabilised with our forecasting model well established and covering the period up until 2020. Again, World Bowls is indebted to Howard Pryse, our Financial Consultant, for his expertise and assistance. Priority is also being given to income generation from web site advertising, sponsorship, and affiliation fees. The Board's proposals in relation to future moderate affiliation fees increases are contained within the minutes of the October 2015 Board meeting.

IOC Recognition

World Bowls Chief Executive and its Technical Delegate to CG have liaised closely in this regard. The latest news is that the IOC has advised us that they are currently reviewing their recognition criteria. It hopes to issue the results to International Federations sometime during the first quarter of 2016.

The new site is also intended to generate much needed income

As such attractive advertising rates are available for interested companies and businesses. Interested parties please contact our Chief Executive at worldbowls@btconnect.com