

# WORLD BOWLS HEADS UP



Newsletter of World Bowls

November 2018

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

# With eyes fixed on the horizon

**AS WE** prepare to commit another year to the record books I look back on 2018 as one of outstanding memories and achievements, and one in which our great sport was showcased so brilliantly at the Commonwealth Games on Australia's Gold Coast.

In fact, these past twelve months have seen the sport more visible than at any time in its history with the wealth of television coverage, live internet streaming and social media attention it has received.

And in recent years our family has grown too, with Switzerland, France, Hungary, Jamaica, the Czech Republic, Tonga and Germany coming on board. In welcoming these fledgling nations to the sport, I assure them of our unstinting support and encouragement as they develop and flourish.

To that end World Bowls has a wealth of knowledge about the aspirations, strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities that exist within the global bowls community, along with a deep understanding, and appreciation of the culture of our sport.

But we also understand there is still much to be done and I list these four topics as our highest priority.

- Continue our push towards IOC recognition.
- Creation of a new 'mega'

world event.

- Improving the image of our sport.

- Development of an international coaching credential.

**IT IS** acknowledged that the future development of lawn bowls at all levels would be strongly enhanced by IOC Recognition. The International Olympic Committee has expressed sincere respect for both our sport and our bid for official recognition; plus it recognises the many positives and is impressed by the globalisation of lawn bowls, its popularity, its values and its good governance.

However, there remains an inflexible impasse with the GAISF (Global Organisation of international Sport Federations) criteria relating to the number of participating nations.

It is in everyone's best interests to keenly assist Development and Associate Members in their quest for full member status so our eligibility for IOC recognition can be reached.

**AS PART** of a review of events, World Bowls is committed to the establishment of a new 'mega' event, similar to signature events seen in other high profile sports such as golf's Ryder Cup and cricket's Ashes.

It is believed that such a team event would attract universal support and signifi-



cantly raise the profile of our sport. Accordingly, a meeting on a possible concept conducted during our recent singles champion of champions event at St Johns Park in Sydney between senior executives of Bowls Australia, World Bowls and the Moama Bowling Club, was most beneficial.

**BOWLS** is not a 'cash rich' sport but it possesses a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise within its global community. Our Board has agreed to launch and coordinate a new initiative which aims to use these invaluable resources to undertake a complete review of our sport's image and profile and produce recommendations for their significant enhancement.

Our clear focus is to identify and develop effective practices, initiatives and actions that will enhance the image and profile of bowls; offer an effective and consistent approach to the marketing and promotion of our sport across

the globe; make bowls more attractive to potential participants, sponsors and media; facilitate the adoption of effective 'best practices' by key stakeholders worldwide – providing a universally more consistent and stronger approach to improving our sport's profile.

**STRONG** progress is being made in the area of coaching and the creation of a Global Pool of Coaches. A World Bowls coaching committee has been established and work is well underway towards formalising a world qualification and coaching manual for the use of 'smaller' countries. The formation of regional coaching centres of excellence in Asia and Europe is also under discussion. This body is also gearing up to facilitate the allocation and provision of coaches to fulfil requests for assistance from smaller countries via our Development Strategy.

**I AM** proud that during my presidency World Bowls has clearly demonstrated its obligation to all members regardless of size - the introduction of our Development Strategy geared to assisting the smaller nations is clear proof of this. Indeed, I am determined that this commitment to the betterment of our developing and emerging nations remains strong.

*John Bell - President*



• *Scott Roberts and Claudius Lam.*

## NEW BOARD APPOINTMENTS

**EARLIER** this year president John Bell and his World Bowls colleagues were delighted to announce the addition of two outstanding individuals to the board of directors.

They are Scott Roberts from the USA and Claudius Lam from Hong Kong China.

In announcing the appointments, president John reaffirmed the organisation's determination to grow the World Bowls brand, to raise the profile of lawn bowls, and to tap into the wealth of talent from around the world.

'Claudius and Scott are magnificent bowls people who will leave no stone unturned to achieve the best possible outcomes for the sport,' he said. 'They are extremely talented men and we are fortunate to have them on board.'

Both have been appointed as a Directors of World Bowls. Claudius is the Development Director for the Asia area of the Asia & Oceania Region, while Scott is Development Director for the Americas area of the Africa and the Americas Region.

Claudius has served on the board of the HKLBA and is the top umpire in Hong Kong China, officiating at most of the region's major events, while he is also a well-known writer on bowls.

A true all-rounder, Scott won a bronze medal in the 2016 World Cup at Warilla, has served on his national association's board of directors, and is also a regular contributor to bowling publications.

## Growing our game to all four corners of the world

**ANYONE** who was at St Johns Park for our recent singles champion of champions event might have witnessed a poignant moment in bowls history when two developing countries on the international stage - Hungary and Switzerland - took their first tentative steps out onto a world championship event in the first round.

History will recall that Thomas Schneiter from Switzerland won the encounter against Hungary's Zoltan Pavelka, while the obvious joy as both players gave their all in the match was infectious.

Both countries are products of the World Bowls Development Strategy that was initiated several years ago.

The development of bowls comes in so many different forms, individual and collective, management and leadership, starting out, improving the status quo, nurturing opportunities and mentoring talent, etc. It is all encompassing.

**ANOTHER** positive development came recently when the long-established World Indoor Bowls Council (WIBC) affiliated to World Bowls under the new name of International Indoor Bowls Council. It has been agreed that World Bowls will work with IIBC to enhance the IIBC World Junior Championships as part of the World Bowls International Calendar of Events. The IIBC will conduct its Under-25 Championships at the Glasgow Indoor Bowls Stadium next month, from 3-7 December.

**THE** Board was also delighted to announce that Bowls Cyprus will host the 2023 Atlantic Championships, while the European Championships have been set down for Guernsey during September next year.

**WITH** relation to the qualifying events for World Bowls Championships (Atlantic and Asia Pacific Championships) the format has now been changed to be in line with Commonwealth Games bowls competitions. All section rounds will be of 2 hours 15 minutes duration, while fours matches have been reduced from 18 to 15 ends.

**SINCE** our last newsletter, and in consideration of participants from both older and younger generations having difficulty holding even minimum sized (00) bowls, the Board has approved the lowering of the minimum size to allow manufacture of 114mm (size 000) and 112mm (size 0000) bowls.

Here's the relevant rules:-

52.1.6: Bowls made of wood must measure between 112mm and 134 mm across their widest point and weigh up to 1.59kg.

52.1.7: Bowls made of rubber or plastic resin must measure between 112mm and 131mm across their widest point and weigh up to 1.59kg.



• *Zoltan Pavelka from Hungary and Thomas Schneiter from Switzerland.*

