

WORLD BOWLS HEADS UP



Newsletter of World Bowls

July 2017



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Facing the challenges

It is my pleasure to again introduce our newsletter.

World Bowls is making every effort to develop and grow our global bowls community and showcase our sport worldwide.

This is demonstrated fully within the latest revision of our 2018-2021 Strategic Plan, which is in the final stages of completion.

I thank those who sent in valuable responses to contribute to the formulation of our Strategic Plan.

The quest for IOC (International Olympic Committee) recognition remains a key focus of our attention.

Our referral, from the IOC, to seek membership of the GAISF (Global Association of International Sports Federations) as a necessary preliminary step, has certainly not made that quest any easier. Negotiations are ongoing.

You will see from the breadth of activity highlighted in this newsletter that much progress is being made. However, there is much more work to be done, and many worrying issues to be resolved.

Arresting the decline in participation; strengthening the weak infrastructures prevalent in

our smaller nations; and increasing both the profile of our sport, and the revenue funding within it; remain distinct priorities.

With limited resources available remedial action will require careful prioritisation and significant global cooperation and assistance.

The vast reservoir of know how, experience and influence that exists within the sport's larger stakeholders needs to be harnessed and channelled towards the sustainability and enhancement of our great sport.

Therein lies the key task for World Bowls – to coordinate and manage that process through our Strategic Plan.

The Board and officers are fully aware of their responsibilities in this respect and relish the challenge.

The successful delivery of our Strategic Plan will fulfil the overarching aim of World Bowls – namely: 'to be recognised and respected as a modern, progressive and effective International Federation'.

I thank you again for your continuing support.

John Bell - President



NEW BOARD MEMBER

MEET Claire Leonard - one of the UK's leading lights in the field of strategic marketing and business development - the newest addition to the World Bowls Board of Directors.

'It's a further extension of our resolve to grow the World Bowls brand and capture the best possible corporate growth from our international potential,' president John Bell said at the announcement. 'Claire is one of the top professionals in her field and we're thrilled to have her wealth of talent, dynamism and positivity on the board.'

Claire brings more than 20 years of experience and a success proven track record to the role.

A Director with Newcastle upon Tyne's highly successful Hunter Johnstone Marketing Solutions organisation, she uses her extensive skill set in strategic results-driven marketing and management.

In formalising the appointment last April, president John paid tribute and expressed sincere appreciation to Colleen Gilbert from Broadbeach, Australia, whose term as Appointed Director concluded in March.

Supporting the game across the world

In keeping with our motto 'Supporting the game across the world', great strides have been taken in our unstinting determination to grow the sport of lawn bowls globally in the months since we last dispensed a newsletter from World Bowls headquarters.

As has been mentioned previously, 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.

PERHAPS one of the most exciting recent developments has been in the South Pacific area where Regional Director Karen Murphy has frontlined the steering committee of Bowls Fiji president Radhika Prasad as secretary, recently retired Bowls NZ chief executive Kerry Clark, Norfolk Island's Phil Jones and Chris Wallace from Bowls Australia, in the formation of Bowls Oceania.

This will be a massive boon for the smaller island countries on so many levels. And with the recent formalisation of the association's constitution, all is in readiness for a fantastic future in the region.

In other corners of the world discussions with Federation Francaise de Lawn Bowls and the development of the sport in France are ongoing, while we're thrilled to welcome Bowls Hungary, with its single green and in excess of 30 active bowlers in Budapest, as a new development member; plus in the Netherlands a brand new green at Enschede is sure to swell the sport's numbers in that country.

Furthermore we have seen some positive progress towards developing technical officials in India, plus an approach regarding development from Samoa.

And what about China's breathtaking new eight green complex at Henan in Huojia County, near Xinxiang?

Only recently it hosted the 2017 Chinese National Lawn Bowls Championships that invited China's municipalities, provinces, special administration regions, special economic zones and state-owned enterprise to participate.



• Regional director Karen Murphy with Bowls Fiji president Radhika Prasad.

This year a total of 12 men's teams and six women's teams participated in the event which included Hong Kong, Macau, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Henan and Quzhou.

ANOTHER positive development comes in the form of negotiations with the World Indoor Bowls Council (WIBC), with a view to affiliate to World Bowls under a revised name with the membership of WIBC having 'approved a draft agreement in its entirety' and a delegation will now meet with the Board of World Bowls at their next Board meeting in September.

EVENT Tender guideline documents have been issued - seeking formal detailed bids to host future World Bowls international events including the 2024 World Championships, 2023 Atlantic & Asia Pacific Championships, along with the 2019 & 2020 World Singles Champion of Champions.

The 2017 World Cup and World Youth Championships were again very successful and dates for these events in 2018 at the current venues have been confirmed. Likewise, dates for the 2018 World Singles Champion of Champions have now been confirmed again at St Johns Park. SYNTHETIC Greens Performance Standards - A thorough detailed consultation and review process is nearing completion and it is anticipated that the Board should be in a position to sign off the revised Standards by the end of the year.

GREEN CLIPPINGS

Blue Ribbon events

ALL is in readiness for the World Singles Champion of Champions at Sydney's magnificent St Johns Park Bowling Club in October.

It is anticipated that no fewer than 55 international representatives from 33 countries will be seen in action at the award-winning venue between October 30 and 5 November.

This event offers the ultimate 'rags to riches' fairytale of a previously unheralded bowler winning a world title having successfully won through club, district, state and national play-offs, without the need to curry favour with national selectors.

Last year's winners were Australians Natasha Scott and Scott Thulborn.

NEXT year will see two major world events, leading into the 2018 Commonwealth Games bowls competition at the Broadbeach Bulls club on Queensland's Gold Coast between 4-15 April.

From February 24 to 2 March, Broadbeach will host the World Youth Championships which will see the sport's finest 18-26 year-olds compete in men's and women's singles, along with the popular mixed pairs, over seven days of hot competition.

Just days later and further south, at the plush Warilla Bowls and Recreation Club in Shellharbour, an hour south of Sydney, NSW, the prestigious World Cup indoor singles championships will be conducted over nine days of outstanding competition between 6-14 March.

