

# WORLD BOWLS HEADS UP



Newsletter of World Bowls

March 2018

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

# Back with passion and understanding

**Allow me to convey how thrilled I am to have been re-elected as your President and equally delighted to have been returned with such a substantial majority.**

A sincere thank you to all who have supported me. Having spent a lifetime involved with our sport of bowls – a very happy one might I add – I can assure you I am now even more passionate about doing everything I can to promote its well-being and development.

This attitude is shared by the World Bowls board members and our staff, whose backgrounds are also steeped in our great sport.

I viewed the recent election result as an overwhelming vote of support for my team as well. All of our various roles have enabled us to engage with the many diverse aspects of our membership.

As such I am confident that World Bowls has acquired a detailed knowledge of 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.

### **Commitment To All Our Member Nations**

Under my Presidency, World Bowls has used its specialist knowledge to prepare a positive programme of action, which has been geared to addressing the immediate needs of our sport, but in a way that fully respects the limited resources available.

I am also proud that we have clearly demonstrated our obligation to all members regardless of size - the introduction of a 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.

### **Pleasing Progress But Much More To Do**

Progress in many key areas has been significant, particularly when judged against the resources available and circumstances prevailing. This fact is something that has thankfully been appreciated by the majority of member nations.

A solid platform for further action has been established and distinct opportunities created for further success



– indeed much of the work undertaken is still ongoing.

A full list of our proposed actions is shown in our Operational Plan, which can be found on our website [www.worldbowls.com](http://www.worldbowls.com).

### **A New Intensity Needed**

Through the implementation of our Operational Plan I believe World Bowls is clearly showing that it is determined to have a very positive and beneficial ef

fect on our sport. We must however now concentrate on finding the means to deliver our proposed actions more quickly, and more extensively. This will involve both internal and external focus.

From within, we will continue to carefully examine and refine our own internal practices.

Externally, there is much to consider too - for instance - we have only scratched the

surface of providing assistance for our smaller, and emerging nations, through our Development Strategy.

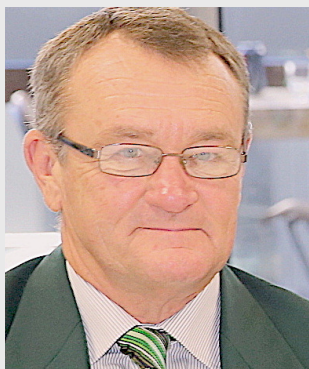
We have attracted new countries into our fold as Development Members but we now need to give them urgent assistance to attain

full membership. The exciting opportunity to review the provision and delivery of our programme of world events, and to coordinate the sharing of best practice on key issues – image, member retention, coaching – must be exploited to the full. I am in no doubt that their successful delivery will hugely benefit from attracting the cooperation and practical assistance of our sport's established, and well resourced stakeholders. .

In short there is a vast reservoir of knowledge, experience and resources within our MNAs and key stakeholders. This needs to be harnessed and channelled towards the sustainability and development of our great sport. worldwide.

I look forward to leading that challenge, and to fulfilling our aim of being a respected, effective and progressive world governing body.

*John Bell - President*



## NEW BOARD MEMBER

MEET Wayne Moffatt - for the past 20 years one of Australia's most progressive bowls administrators - and now the newest addition to the World Bowls Board of Directors.

The recently retired chief executive of Queensland's magnificent Club Pine Rivers, Wayne drove the introduction of televised international competitions at the Brisbane venue, hosting test matches between Australia, Ireland, Wales, England and South Africa.

More recently Pine Rivers was the inaugural host club of the popular Bowls Premier League TV series, which continues to this day.

Formal qualifications in business and business administration along with the passion for bowls developed as a respected competitor make Wayne a valuable asset to the World Bowls Board of Directors.

He replaces international star and world champion Karen Murphy from Australia, who has retired after a distinguished term as Regional Director for Asia and Oceania since August 2014.

At the recent elections John McArdle from South Africa was reappointed as Regional Director for Africa and The Americas, while Garry Collins from Guernsey was reappointed as Regional Director for Europe (including British Isles).

These appointments will be ratified at the April 14 World Bowls Council meeting.

## Supporting the game across the world

Staying true to our motto 'Supporting the game across the world', many more positive steps have been taken in our unstinting determination to grow the sport of lawn bowls globally in the time 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.

WE have welcomed fledgling nations Iran and Jamaica to the World Bowls family and wish them every success as they build the sport in their respective parts of the world.

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'. A final decision will be ratified next month.

THE Board was thrilled to declare that China and Hong Kong have been granted hosting rights to the 2023 Asia Pacific Championships and 2024 World Bowls Championships respectively.

LIKEWISE, it was recently announced by Bowls England that the Victoria Park complex at Royal Leamington Spa, will be the host venue of the 2022 Commonwealth Games bowls competition.

OUR congratulations are extended to Bowling Federation of India president Sunaina Kumari, who has been elected as a vice president of the Indian Olympic Committee.

HEART warming moment recently in Hong Kong when officials of World Bowls were assessing candidate umpires for elevation to International Technical Official (ITO) status. One of the applicants was an umpire from Japan, Hirokazu Mori, who passed the assessment to become an ITO and is the first one in Japan to have sat the test. Congratulations.

EXCITEMENT continues to build 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 is a massive boon for the smaller island countries on so many levels and promises a fantastic future in the region.



• BFI president Sunaina Kumari.

