

WORLD BOWLS HEADS UP



Newsletter of World Bowls

October 2016



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Thanks For Your Support

I AM honoured and delighted to have been returned for a second term as president of World Bowls.

When I took office in 2014, my priority was to restore stability and a strong sense of purpose to our sport's global governing body.

The new board along with our chief executive and our assistant to the chief executive responded with enthusiasm.

Together we have achieved a high degree of solidarity that has enabled us to formulate and implement a programme of action to advance the well-being of our great sport worldwide.

I am proud to list a number of successful initiatives that have been undertaken during my inaugural two years of office:-

- The establishment of a detailed monitoring and forecasting system for World Bowls finances;
- The introduction of a Development Strategy focusing on the provision of assistance for our smaller bowling nations – including the staging of a ground-breaking European

Development Seminar;

- The creation of a website to serve as a global reference point for our sport;
- The appointment of a Commercial Director to facilitate the generation of external revenue;
- The appointment of a professional Media and Communications Manager to promote the work of World Bowls in particular, and the profile of our sport in general;
- A review of our Performance Standards for synthetic bowling surfaces;
- And the submission of an application to the International Olympic Committee with the view of our sport achieving Olympic recognition.

Of course, we take great pride in the successful orchestration of our annual programme of world events.

I hope that the positive attitude and actions witnessed over the last two years have clearly demonstrated that World Bowls is determined to fulfil its role as a progressive and effective governing body.

I thank my fellow Directors and the officers of World Bowls for their sterling efforts and unstinting loyalty. Similarly, I thank the bowling nations and key stakeholders across the world for their support.

Continued progress can only be maintained with the support of the expertise and experience that exists within our fraternity.

There is much more work to be done - providing more assistance to nations through our Development Strategy, external income streams to be sourced, and the profile of our great sport to be raised - to name but three key aspects, but at World Bowls we relish the challenge.

I look forward to presiding over another two years of determined effort and we will leave no stone unturned to be the effective and progressive governing body the global bowls community can both relate to and respect.

I thank you again for your continuing support.

John Bell - President



NEW BOARD MEMBER

Well-known Guernsey bowls identity Garry Collins has won the election for the vacant Europe Region post.

An international competitor, senior Bowls Guernsey official and leading sports administrator within the Channel Islands, Garry also brings a wealth of corporate and local government experience to his new role as Regional Director for Europe including the British Isles.

His appointment will be ratified on December 5 at the Biennial Council Meeting in Christchurch, during the 2016 World Bowls Championships, and his term of office will commence thereafter. Fellow Directors Karen Murphy and John McArdle will also commence their next two-year terms at the same time.

Australia's Karen Murphy was re-elected unopposed to her position as Regional Director for Asia and Oceania, as was South Africa-based John McArdle, who continues as Regional Director for Africa and the Americas.

Garry Collins replaces Bowls England's Andy Ewens, who did not seek re-election after an initial two-year stint, citing family reasons for his retirement.

2016 - A Year Of Accomplishment

In the twelve months since we last dispensed a newsletter from World Bowls headquarters, great strides have been taken in our unstinting determination to grow the sport of lawn bowls globally. 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 heart-warming of all recent developments took place earlier this year in Argentina at San Martin's Club F Gral in Buenos Aires, when one of sport's great national rivalries - Argentina versus Brazil – engaged on a bowling green.

Had it been a football stadium there would have been upwards of 100,000 screaming fans roaring at each touch. Although nothing of that magnitude, the bowls challenge was competed with equal passion as the hosts claimed the inaugural 'Torneo Sudamericano Lawn Bowls' trophy.

What makes this so remarkable is that when the British colonists who came to South America - to build railways and establish plantations (and bowls greens) back in the 1800's – departed, only scattered debris of the sport remained and it faced extinction. However, true believers in both countries took up the challenge and resuscitated the historic game in their area. Lawn bowls is now alive and kicking with five clubs in Argentina and two in Brazil, while hopes are high that these gains will inflate as the sport attracts more followers.

WITH this in mind World Bowls now has an acclaimed Development Strategy package prepared to improve weak bowling infrastructures and to stimulate development across the globe. This is based on regional action, coordinated from the World Bowls office and implemented by Regional Directors.

The implementation of effective regional action not only provides vital practical 'on the ground' assistance, it also leads to improved cooperation between all prominent stakeholders and World Bowls for the greater good of our sport.

The strategy essentially identifies which MNAs can receive assistance from World Bowls; develops assistance packages which are made available and are capable of being tailored to the needs of individual MNAs; and formalises how packages can be effectively and economically delivered.

GREAT to see new nations positioning themselves for a bright bowling future. Welcome to new MNA Bowls Korea with its 25 clubs and 1250 registered players, while Pakistan has confirmed it now has one green up and running plus another two as work in progress.

Similarly, the Federation Francaise de Lawn Bowls has expressed total commitment to introducing the sport into France, where there is currently one green at Perigord, while equally pleasing is the knowledge that plans for a bowls green at Gstaad in Switzerland are well advanced. Likewise, Regional Director Karen Murphy is working tirelessly in unison with Bowls Australia towards the formation of an Oceania Bowls Association in the South Pacific that will have many positive ramifications for our sport in the region.

WHAT better gauge of progress is there than when an entity backs up positive talk with serious money?

And while there might be a few negative voices about sprouting gloom and doom, we are thrilled to see business and government demonstrating the confidence in bowls to invest in new multi-million dollar projects which cater for future growth.

Hats off to Australia's Moama Bowling Club, on the NSW/Victoria border; Deer Park, on Melbourne's western outskirts; and Club Sapphire, at Merimbula on the NSW south coast; who will unveil their new multi-million dollar indoor/outdoor greens this summer, and likewise to the Naenae club in Wellington, New Zealand.

FINALLY, in August we submitted our Recognition Request File to the International Olympic Committee Sports Department. It will be studied and processed before passing to the IOC Executive Board for consideration at their December 2016 meeting.

GREEN CLIPPINGS

• Super Singles

ALL is in readiness for the World Singles Champion of Champions at Club Helensvale on Australia's Gold Coast next month.

No fewer than forty-six international representatives from 27 countries will be seen in action at the award-winning Queensland venue between 14- 20 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 Emma Fir yana Saroji from Malaysia and Ireland's Neil Mulholland.

• World Showcase

IT'S a similar story coming from Christchurch, New Zealand, where the Bowls Papanui, Fendalton, Bowls Canterbury and Burnside clubs are excited and ready to host the quadrennial World Bowls Championships between November 29 and December 11.

In all, some thirty-four bowling nations, which comprise the world's greatest players, will compete at these championships in New Zealand.

Interested parties are reminded that the much-anticipated conference 'Bowls Participation: The Changing Landscape' will be conducted on 25-26 November in Christchurch at the Rydges Latimer Hotel. Enquiries to Bowls NZ at www.bowlsnz.co.nz.

